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# THE TIMES

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## TOMORROW

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**DEFINITIVE  
A LEVEL  
LEAGUE TABLE  
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# Tory widow called in to comfort 'suicidal' Labour MP



Wareing: accusations  
drove him to despair

By Andrew Pierce  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of a Conservative MP who killed himself has come to the aid of a Labour MP who was so upset by his suspension from the party that he described himself as suicidal.

Robert Wareing, the MP for Liverpool West Derby since 1983, was so distraught by the way he was treated that he sent a handwritten note to Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, seeking an urgent meeting the same day because he felt "suicidal".

Salt was rubbed into the wound when a junior whip told him he was suspended. The veteran Labour MP was driven to despair after the party leadership, when it disciplined him, accused him of having covert links with a front organisation for the Bosnian Serbs.

A Commons investigation later rejected the charge and the owner of the company at the centre of the investigation is taking legal action against Mr Brown.

Mr Brown, who investigated the suicide of the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, has not replied to Mr Wareing after two months. But Friends of Mr Wareing were so concerned by his mental state that they contacted Janet Heddle, widow

of the Mid-Shropshire Tory MP who killed himself in 1989. The following day, Mr Wareing had dinner with Mrs Heddle, whom he had never met, and a mutual friend at a west London restaurant. Mrs Heddle then arranged for Mr Wareing, 66, a widower, to spend a week at the country home of friends.

A friend of Mr Wareing's said last night: "They effectively arranged a safe house. It was the intervention of friends, who knew John Heddle's widow, which brought Bob to his senses. He felt shattered, but was able to talk it through with her."

Mr Wareing, who was advised on the day he was disciplined to leave

Westminster and to say nothing to the press, declined to comment to *The Times*. But he later issued a statement saying: "This is a personal matter but, yes, it is true that I sent the Government Chief Whip a note asking to see him. In that note I also said I felt suicidal following a range of scurrilous allegations which had been made."

"All of which, bar one, the failure to register a shareholding, were rejected as untrue by Sir Gordon Downey (the Parliamentary commissioner for standards). Asked about Mrs Heddle, he said: 'It is personal, but she was enormously kind and supportive.'"

John Rowland, a friend of Mr Wareing from his primary schooldays in Liverpool, said: "When I heard about Gordon McMaster's death I thought: that could have been Bob. He was suicidal. In a 60-year friendship I have never known him at such a low ebb. We were worried sick."

It has emerged that Zoran Tancic, the owner of Mena Trading, has sent a solicitor's letter to Mr Brown over the suggestion that the company could be a front organisation for the Bosnian Serb regime. A writ is expected. The committee's report said there was no evidence to support the theory.

The revelations about Mr Wareing came amid mounting concern among Labour MPs at the way the party handles disciplinary procedures.

Mr Wareing's suspension was enforced by the Labour Party after he admitted failing to disclose a £6,000 payment from Mena Trading. The Commons Standards and Privileges committee ruled that he should have registered it. He will be suspended from Parliament for one week when the Commons resumes in October. The Committee cleared Mr Wareing of the other allegations and said there was no attempt at tax avoidance.

# Officers face court martial over expenses

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

UP TO six RAF officers are facing courts martial following an investigation, by air force police into alleged expenses violations, by airman serving in Italy as part of the Bosnian peacekeeping operation.

The officers, mostly squadron leaders, the equivalent of major in the Army, will face charges next month when the six-month inquiry has been completed. A number of other officers are to be disciplined.

The courts martial of such senior men would be unprecedented in the RAF. If found guilty, their promotion prospects could be seriously damaged, or they could even be discharged from the service.

RAF police were called in following the discovery that air force personnel serving tours of duty in support of Operation Resolute — the codename for Britain's contribution to the air operation over Bosnia-Herzegovina — were staying in expensive hotels in Venice for long weekends and charging the bills to the Ministry of Defence.

There were also allegations that some of the RAF men may have hired cars for their trips. The total claims under investigation were reported to be £350,000 although this was not confirmed by the MoD.

The RAF men had all been summoned to attend intelligence briefings at Nato's Fifth

Tactical Air Force headquarters in Vicenza in northern Italy which generally lasted only half a day. However, instead of returning immediately to their operational base at Gioia del Colle in southern Italy, it was alleged they stayed for a further two or three days in 600-a-night four-star hotels in Venice and Florence, and included the bills on their expenses.

The alleged fraudulent claims were made over a period of two years when the RAF was playing a crucial role in monitoring the no-fly zone over Bosnia and providing close air support to the peacekeeping troops. RAF Tornados and Jaguars were involved in the operation.

In 1994 when the alleged fraudulent claims were first made, the RAF combat aircraft and crews were operating in support of the then United Nations-led peacekeeping mission. Now, after an investigation which has involved the questioning of more than 50 officers, the RAF police are in a position to recommend formal charges against the senior officers who are understood to have held supervisory posts and were responsible for signing the expenses claims.

The officers who are now facing courts martial were also based at Gioia del Colle.

When the investigation was originally confirmed by the

MoD in March this year, there were allegations that senior RAF officers had been sanctioning the extra hotel nights for some time.

Detectives from the RAF's Provost and Security Services were called in by air force accountants who suspected that hundreds of personnel had wrongly claimed their expenses. Although RAF personnel are still serving in Italy as part of the now Nato-led Bosnian peacekeeping operation, the procedures for expenses reimbursement has taken a long time because the RAF has had difficulty in determining whether the extra hotel nights were accepted by the known rules or whether they were breached to make the claims.

None of the officers involved was accompanied by wives. Most of them were on four-month tour cycles.

They were expected to travel to Vicenza on a regular basis to be fully briefed by senior Nato intelligence officers and to meet their counterparts from America, Italy, France and The Netherlands. A spokesman for the MoD said investigations were expected to be completed next month.



Danny May is worrying players who fear the embarrassment of losing to a child

# Danny, 11, bowls over tradition

By David Rhyes Jones

THE image of crown bowls as the preserve of our more senior sportsmen is about to be challenged by an 11-year-old boy who has become the scourge of England's greens.

Danny May from Carlisle has signed up with the Professional Bowls Association (PBA) and hopes to compete in one of the sport's most prestigious televised tournaments — the International Open at Preston in October. The sport's authorities cannot remember a younger competitor but opinion is divided about this intrusion of youth.

Fred Inch, deputy secretary

of the English Bowling Association, said: "There is no age limit... and the more youngsters we attract must be good for the future of the sport."

But another senior figure in the sport who will be competing in the tournament was not so charitable, saying: "Can you imagine the embarrassment of being beaten on television by a child. He will have to be stopped."

Danny says he does not intend to devote his life to bowls. His ambition is to become world champion by the time he is 22 — and so be the youngest ever — then retire

at 30 and apply his energies to the more lucrative golf circuit.

His father, David, who introduced him to the sport two years ago, insists that it is not a stunt. "Danny is a gifted athlete who is good at anything that involves a ball, and is deadly serious about his bowls. He has a natural delivery and an incredible understanding of tactics." He still, however, has time for the Spice Girls, designer clothes and fast food.

Danny won the Cumbria Under-18 singles title this month and reached the final of the Under-25 competition.

# British troops seize Bosnian police stations

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

HUNDREDS of British troops foiled a possible coup in Bosnia yesterday by taking control of all police stations in Banja Luka and seizing three lorriesloads of weapons.

The unprecedented Nato action was sanctioned after emergency talks between Biljana Plavsic, the Republika Srpska president, and international negotiators who agreed that the security situation in the town had deteriorated to such an extent that foreign intervention was unavoidable.

Diplomatic sources said that the 2500 small arms discovered in the dawn raids could have been used in a coup attempt by Dragan Kijac, the Interior Minister loyal to Radovan Karadzic dismissed by Mrs Plavsic last month.

One of the diplomats watching the operation said of the arsenal: "It was staggering. There were piles waist high of rifles stretching the length of corridors, grenades, mines, booby traps, ball bearings, brand new rifles still in their packing cases."

In all, 350 Nato Stabilisation Force (Sfor) troops — mostly British with Czech support — were involved in the raids to

evict several hundred Bosnian Serb police from five stations. Tanks and armoured personnel carriers surrounded each station while Apache helicopters guarded approaches to the town.

By midday the scene at the central station — believed to be the nerve centre of Dr Karadzic's secret police — was chaotic as UN international police helped to install Mrs Plavsic's new commanders and Dr Karadzic's loyalists were led away.

Shortly afterwards Mrs Plavsic entered the building she had described the previous evening as "the centre of evil which we must destroy".

The operation encountered little resistance and Plavsic dismissed the weapons find as "a few hunting rifles". But the Karadzic cabinet described her as a quivering and issued a statement saying: "These events can be considered a state coup. It is obvious that what is at work is an attempt at foreign occupation with the help of domestic collaborators."

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, page 16

## GCSE results

A small increase in the GCSE pass rate meant another set of record results. But schools are still a long way from hitting government's target of getting more children to the old C-level standard. Page 6

TV & RADIO	42.43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22.44
LETTERS	17
OBITUARIES	19
DANIEL JOHNSON	16
ARTS	34.33
CHESS & BRIDGE	41
COURT & SOCIAL	18
SPORT	38.42.44
BODY & MIND	14
TRAVEL	20.21

# Windfall winners go on a spending spree

By George Sivel

HIGH STREET sales rose by 6.5 per cent in the year to the end of July, the fastest rate since mid-1988.

The rise — fuelled by windfalls from building societies converting to banks — brought fears in the City of interest rate rises, in spite of the 7 per cent cap on base rates imposed by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee recently.

Both the Treasury and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, sought to play down the spending boom.

saying that it would not fuel inflation. Mr Robinson said: "If there were to be a sustained boom over a long period of time — many, many months more than we were anticipating — then of course we would review the situation."

The Office for National Statistics estimates that if windfall spending from building society handouts were removed from the calculation, the quarterly rise would be a more normal 1.4 per cent.

Interest fears, page 23

# BAT races into £250m Formula One row

By Caroline Merrell

BRITAIN'S biggest cigarette maker, British American Tobacco, is planning to spend up to £250 million on buying a Formula One motor racing team. The idea is to get round the Government's proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport by becoming the owner rather than sponsor.

The group, whose brands include Lucky Strike, said yesterday that it could either start up its own team from scratch or it could enter a joint venture with another team. It was not yet ready to announce details. A spokesman said: "We do not want to fuel speculation."

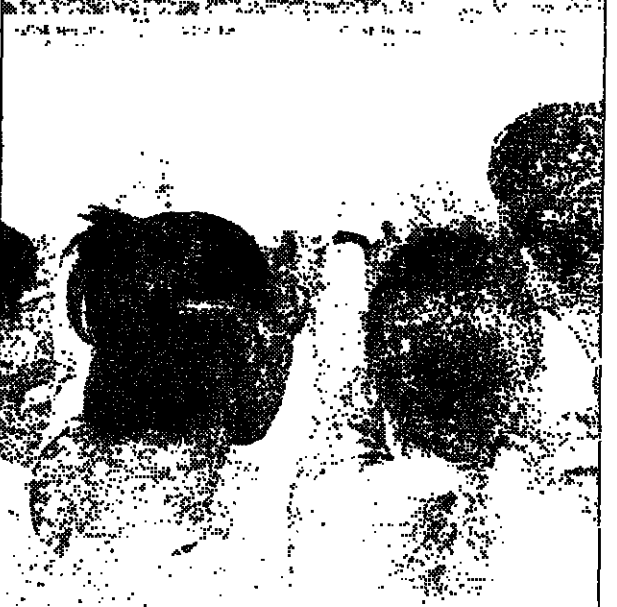
BAT is keen to promote Lucky Strike, one of the biggest selling brands in the Third World. A team carrying the Lucky Strike name could escape the sponsorship ban imposed in this country.

Three leading Formula One teams — Williams, McLaren and Jordan — receive more than £40 million a year from cigarette sponsorship. But because of restrictions on cigarette advertising, particularly in France, the cars do not carry the brand names when competing in many European grand prix. At Silverstone this year, for instance, the Williams car raced in the colours of Rothmans, its £15 million-a-year sponsor, with a large question mark on the side of the car.

BAT's foray into Formula One comes as Chris Smith, the Sport Secretary, begins to draw up plans to implement a ban on tobacco sponsorship and advertising. His department said that the Government did not intend to dilute its proposals: a draft Bill is expected before the end of the year. Mr Smith believes that Formula One and other sports that rely heavily on tobacco sponsorship could be attractive to other commercial sponsors.

BAT said of its plan for Formula One racing: "It is a matter of principle. We think that sports should be able to accept sponsorship from whoever they like. We do not think that tobacco sponsorship encourages smoking."

## GCSE Results



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# The garden that kept on growing

It was a lawn unto-itself. Now it must be cut down to size. Kathryn Knight reports on the case that puts an extra limit on country life

ONE man went to mow down his garden meadow yesterday under the orders of a court. David Williamson was quite proud of the head-high wild grass which had become a haven for hedgehogs and butterflies. Unfortunately, it was a kind of hell for some of his neighbours.

Mr Williamson's wild grass is all around his detached house in a quiet close appropriately named Meadow End. Other residents go in for more traditional gardening, with things like, say, lawnmowers, and some plants.

The legal ruling in their favour has now sparked a furious debate over the "natural" look versus the manicured look in the leafy lanes of Gotham village, Nottinghamshire.

Year after year, the residents of Meadow End have been tending their manicured lawns and flower beds, casting dark looks at the overgrown 60ft jungle at the end of the neat close.

Mr Williamson, 54, and his wife Nadine moved into the picturesque road 15 years ago, adopting a different approach in their garden to their green-fingered neighbours, cultivating nothing but weeds and overgrown shrubbery.

At first, residents were prepared to tolerate them. But after the weeds at the end of the road approached head height, they complained to the local council. A council officer visited the house in June after repeated complaints.

Officials served an enforcement notice on the couple. The authority's development control committee voted to take action after a second visit last month discovered that the garden even more overgrown.

A spokesman said: "In the end, we then had no choice but to take legal action after they ignored a string of notices."

On Tuesday, Nottingham magistrates gave the William-



Nadine Williamson: ordered to pay costs

sons a 12-month conditional discharge — with £75 costs each — for failing to uphold the order.

The couple now have to clear up their garden patch, or they could face another appearance, this time for being in contempt of court.

"It's about time," said Tom Bellamy, who lives opposite them. "They get away with it every year. Everybody around here takes pride in their gardens, but this is an eyesore. He should burn it all off."

"I am fed up with what has gone on. Mr Williamson does not work — he has got plenty of time to sort his garden out," he said.

Another jubilant neighbour said: "It's an embarrassment when we have visitors round. People think we've got the Addams Family living at the end of the street."

"It's a bit of a running joke

in the village. There are so many beautiful gardens here, yet we've also got one of the worst in the country."

But as he began the hefty task of hacking down his lawn to reasonable size yesterday, Mr Williamson said that he was fed up with everyone interfering.

He said he not neglected it out of laziness, but liked his garden as it was, and had the support of some neighbours who liked it as a haven for wildlife.

"We're fed up with the council interfering," he added. "I've already started to burn down the front, but there's a lot to do."

"The thing I'm worried about now is the hedgehogs in the undergrowth. If I harm them, I'm worried that I will be reported for cruelty to animals."

Roy Gubbins, his next-door neighbour whose home directly overlooks the garden, said that he had always enjoyed his view.

"We get lots of different butterflies in that garden, and it's because they have a natural garden," he explained.

"They're lovely people, and I can't see that they're doing any harm."

"It's not a free country any more. A man's home is his castle — he can do what he likes in it. I suppose that you could moan about the view, but it all depends what you like looking at."

Last night, Paul Cox, a solicitor for Rushcliffe Borough Council, said that the couple had admitted breaching an enforcement notice when they had appeared before the court.

"The authority serves enforcement notices on landowners a couple of times a year."

"Generally people comply and it goes no further. As far as I can recall, this is the first time that there has been a court action over a domestic garden."



The garden at Meadow End. One neighbour said: "People think we've got the Addams Family living at the end of the street"

## Shaggy look is cutting edge of fashion

Horticultural experts tell Michael Hornsby of the merits of nature versus nurture

THE couple fined for allowing their garden to become a jungle of weeds may only have been carrying to extremes a trend for less formal landscaping.

Gareth Hughes, assistant producer of BBC2's *Gardeners' World*, said manicured lawns and highly structured flowerbeds were losing popularity. "There is a trend towards growing perennial plants in longish grass to give a natural meadow-like look. We are also seeing the rise of what you might call the shaggy border."

"The old idea was that you put small plants at the front, large ones in the middle and big bold ones at the back to create a tiered effect. Now people are allowing plants to sprout

in all directions and even incorporating things, like opium poppies, that shed their seeds all over the place."

Stephen Anderton, gardening writer for *The Times*, said: "We are seeing a move towards the use of perennial plants in self-sustaining communities that require less maintenance. But just letting your garden fill with weeds is not quite the same."

Suzanne Lucas's benign neglect of her half-acre garden at Mere, Wiltshire, has earned 15 gold medals from the Royal Horticultural Society. Miss Lucas has encouraged more than 200 varieties of woodland plants to grow.

"I would not let dandelions or docks overrun neighbours' gardens, but there is certainly a lot to be said for a wild garden," said Miss Lucas, who is president of the Royal Society of Miniaturists.

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust said an overgrown garden could be excellent for wildlife. Richard Brown, conservation manager, said: "Rank grass is an extremely good shelter for insects, hedgehogs, frogs and toads, particularly at this time of year. Nettles are very good plants for butterflies."

"That does not mean that a more conventional garden cannot be a very valuable place for wildlife, too, if you plant the right flowers. There may have been a good reason why

this couple were told to clean up their garden, but the action taken against them seems rather harsh. A formal garden is not necessarily the only desirable kind."

Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary, and his wife have clipped yew hedges and immaculate lawns at their home near Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. Lady Carrington said: "I do not want to comment on this particular case, but I can understand that masses of thistles and weeds blowing into neighbours' gardens would not be very popular. We prefer the more manicured look: we do not go in for this present fashion of having a wild part of the garden."



The site at Scatness, Shetland, where an Iron Age village has been uncovered, including a very well-preserved house

## Archaeologist drops in on 2,000-year-old house

AN ARCHAEOLOGIST discovered what is believed to be the most perfectly preserved Iron Age house ever found in Britain — after inadvertently putting his foot through its 2,000-year-old roof.

Experts believe that the discovery of the entire building at the Old Scatness site, which is next to Shetland's main airport, could become among the biggest and most important excavations in Britain at the moment. Excitement over the find was last night tinged with frustration on how the work would proceed because of a lack of funding.

Work on the site at Sumburgh was almost finished for the season when the ground gave way under the weight of the site supervisor, Alan Braby, an Edinburgh-based freelance archaeologist.

"His leg disappeared down a hole. He was lucky not to break it," said Val Turner, an archaeologist with Shetland Amenity Trust, which is partly funding the dig.

"We're gobsmacked, still pinching ourselves," she added.

A site worker in Shetland stumbled on an important discovery when he put his foot through an Iron Age roof, reports Helen Johnstone

"The hole is more than two metres deep and appears to be a room in a house with a corbelled stone roof, probably dating from around the time of Christ."

Ms Turner said the discovery was believed to be the biggest since Jarlshof, a celebrated multi-layered archaeological site a mile away.

Mr Braby was equally enthusiastic. Nursing a bruised leg, the archaeologist, who has worked on digs all over Britain, said last night: "I have never worked on anything as exciting and interesting."

Steve Dockrill, from Bradford University and director of excavation said the "incredibly exciting" discovery had been made as archaeologists were

cleaning up the site for photographs.

Other finds during the third season of excavations at Sumburgh include another Iron Age building, with yellow clay still plastered on the walls, and a wheelhouse with the remains of an iron pot containing the bones of an unidentifiable fish.

The area around Sumburgh Airport is surrounded by shifting sand dunes which have buried and preserved successive layers of human settlement.

Ms Turner and a team of archaeologists from Bradford University are frustrated that money has now run out and they can only cover up their finds for the winter and hope

to raise funds for a fourth season next year.

The dig, which attracted more than a thousand visitors this summer, has received funding from, among others, the European Union, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Shetland Islands Council, and Bradford University.

Ms Turner said that £500,000 would be needed over three years to complete work on the site which, she says, houses an entire Iron Age village.

This winter, the archaeologist Julie Bond will be analysing the dozens of new finds from the site. The team reconstructed the hearth in what is thought to be the ruins of a smithy and proved that a peat fire could easily raise a temperature high enough to smelt bog iron. Ms Turner says that the clay on the walls, as well as keeping the elements out, may have had an aesthetic purpose.

Last night Ms Turner's husband said that she and her team were "out celebrating on a beach in Shetland".

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# Ceasefire allows Ulster its quietest month in years

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA ceasefire, a month old yesterday, has given Northern Ireland probably its most peaceful four weeks since the present Troubles began 29 years ago.

Security sources said the IRA had almost completely shut its terrorist operations in advance of next month's peace talks, though there was still some violence from break-away loyalist and republican paramilitary groups.

No one is counting on the ceasefire lasting, but for the moment Northern Ireland is unusually relaxed. Security measures have been eased, tourists are returning and optimism within the business community is sky-high. "This month has been delightful and very, very relaxed," said Sam Cushnahan, director of the non-sectarian group Families Against Intimidation and Terror (Fait).

To enhance the air of

normality, the Government is actively considering the transfer of 18 republican prisoners from English to Irish jails. It was disclosed yesterday.

Security sources said that, in contrast to its last ceasefire, the IRA had sharply curtailed most other operations, including punishment beatings, kneecappings and surveillance. Stopping punishment attacks is considered a litmus test of Sinn Féin's commitment to peaceful methods. Only two republican punishment attacks have been recorded since July 20. During the previous 17-month ceasefire there were eight in the first month.

However, Fait said there was still intimidation, with the IRA giving several trouble-makers 24 hours to leave the Province. The IRA also attempted to rob a Dublin bank last month. But security sources said that, on security

grounds alone, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State, would have no reason to exclude Sinn Féin from the peace talks when she makes her formal decision next week.

The danger on the republican side comes from the Continuity Army Council, a tiny breakaway group that strongly opposes the ceasefire and planted a 1,000lb bomb outside an hotel in Fermanagh on July 31. "They've got the capacity to do very nasty things, but they're not threatening the ceasefire," a senior security source said. Loyalist paramilitaries have been more active, carrying out at least seven punishment attacks in the past month.

The only obviously sectarian killing since July 20 has been that of James Morgan, 16, a Catholic whose mutilated body was dumped in pit full of cattle carcasses near his home in Co Down.



Mud in your eye: the actor Dustin Hoffman smearing mud on the pop singer Sting at the Turkish resort of Dalyan Golu. The men and their families are on a cruise of the Aegean. Sting, an environmental campaigner, urged Turkey to keep coastal development in check to preserve the area's natural beauty.

## Rise in badger numbers worries farmers

By MICHAEL HORSNELL  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS clashed with conservationists yesterday over a report showing a huge rise in the badger population over the past ten years. The finding has coincided with increased outbreaks of tuberculosis in cattle.

Wildlife campaigners hailed the rise in badger numbers as a victory for laws protecting the animals against persecution, but farmers said badgers were now out of control and should be culled in TB-infected areas.

Sir David Naish, the union's president, said: "In areas such as the South West, West Midlands and Wales, all the evidence points to diseased badgers infecting cattle with TB and causing farmers severe difficulties."

He added: "There is an urgent need for appropriate licences to be issued for the management of badgers where they are so abundant that they are leading to significant damage."

But Stephen Harris, of Bristol University's environmental sciences department, who wrote the report for the People's Trust for Endangered Species, said there was no proven link between the presence of badgers and TB in cattle.

"I do not think they need to be controlled," he said. "We are slowly starting to see the recovery of the badger from previous persecution, and a return to the sort of species diversity generally that we should have. Badgers can give TB to cattle, but no one knows how. Killing badgers in huge numbers in the past has not been an effective way of eliminating the disease in cattle."

The report estimates that the total number of badgers has risen by 77 per cent, from 250,000 to more than 440,000, since 1988 when the last comparable survey was done, also by Professor Harris.

Last year 471 new outbreaks of TB were reported, two thirds of them in the South and West of England. Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture next month are expected to show a sharp rise this year.

## Pope is asked to name Mary as co-redeemer

By RICHARD OWEN AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

MANY of the eight million Roman Catholics in Britain and Ireland are supporting a worldwide appeal to the Pope to proclaim the Virgin Mary as a co-redeemer, placing her on a par with Jesus Christ.

A petition containing more than 40,000 signatures, organised in the United States, will be delivered to John Paul II at the Vatican by the end of the week — adding to the 4,340,000 signatures he has received in the past four years from 157 countries supporting the proposed dogma.

Fears are mounting among those who believe that proclaiming Mary as "co-redemptrix" or "mediatrix of all graces" would elevate her status beyond the honour accorded to her in many denominations and create a "Holy Trinity" in place of the Holy Trinity, Nicholas Coote,

an assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said yesterday. "This makes me feel uneasy. All one can say is that there are certain parameters beyond which you may not go."

"One of these is what is taught by Vatican Council II, [comprising] all bishops under the Pope. They were very

Daniel Johnson — page 16

emphatic indeed, saying that the maternal office of Mary towards human beings in no way obscures or diminishes the unique mediation of Christ. In 1 Timothy, it says there is one God and one mediator between God and man and that is Jesus Christ."

The Pope is a devotee of the Marian cult: he believes that

she has saved his life on several occasions, most notably during the attempt on his life in St Peter's Square in May 1981.

He may be tempted to have Mary elevated to co-redeemer while he can, given that he is 77 and in poor health. But while he can try to push doctrine in a particular direction, major doctrinal changes have to be made "by the whole Church", which in effect would mean a third Vatican Council.

The Second Vatican Council of 1962-65, although under pressure from devotees of Mary — including the current Pope, who attended in his former rank of Cardinal Wojtyla — confined itself to a restrained section on her: Paul VI, who was then Pope, declared her only to be Mother of the Church.

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<b>Simmons</b> AS SHOWN ABOVE Bermuda Backcare Double Divan Set. Contourflex spring system with 660 firm gauge individual pocketed springs, 5 layers of upholstery and fully sprung base. Was £999.95, £499.95	<b>STAR BUY</b> £489.95	<b>HALF PRICE</b>

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# Foreigners face ban on bringing in their servants

Ministers are to act swiftly to curb cruelty towards domestic staff from abroad, reports Richard Ford

WEALTHY foreigners could be barred from bringing servants to Britain under proposals being studied by ministers to curb ill treatment and improve the working conditions of domestic staff.

The Government is to act after complaints that servants are kept in conditions close to slavery and have been subjected to abuse and cruelty by their employers. Most of the victims are women from the Philippines, India, Bangladesh and Africa who live with their employers in London.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, promised to introduce measures soon to tackle the exploitation of up to 20,000 domestic workers in Britain. He said: "I am very concerned by repeated allegations of ill treatment of domestic workers allowed temporary entry into Britain to work for their foreign employer. Of course many of them are content but some of them have been subjected to ill treatment and a number of cases are quite appalling."

Measures being studied by Mr O'Brien and Home Office officials include withdrawing the 1980 concession that allows foreigners to bring their domestic servants with them.

Those who take advantage of the rule are often from Middle Eastern states who bring female Filipina, Indian and Nepalese domestic staff with them; and those from India, Bangladesh and African states who rely on their own nationals as servants.

There is also a growing number of British expatriates

who bring their foreign servants with them when they return to the UK.

The Home Office is also looking at letting foreign domestic workers change employers within a restricted category, or to give them access to an airline ticket home.

But there is official concern that by allowing servants to leave their employers, it would become more difficult to keep control of the domestic staff in Britain. Campaigners argue that the present system encourages staff to leave their job, change their identity and take other work illegally.

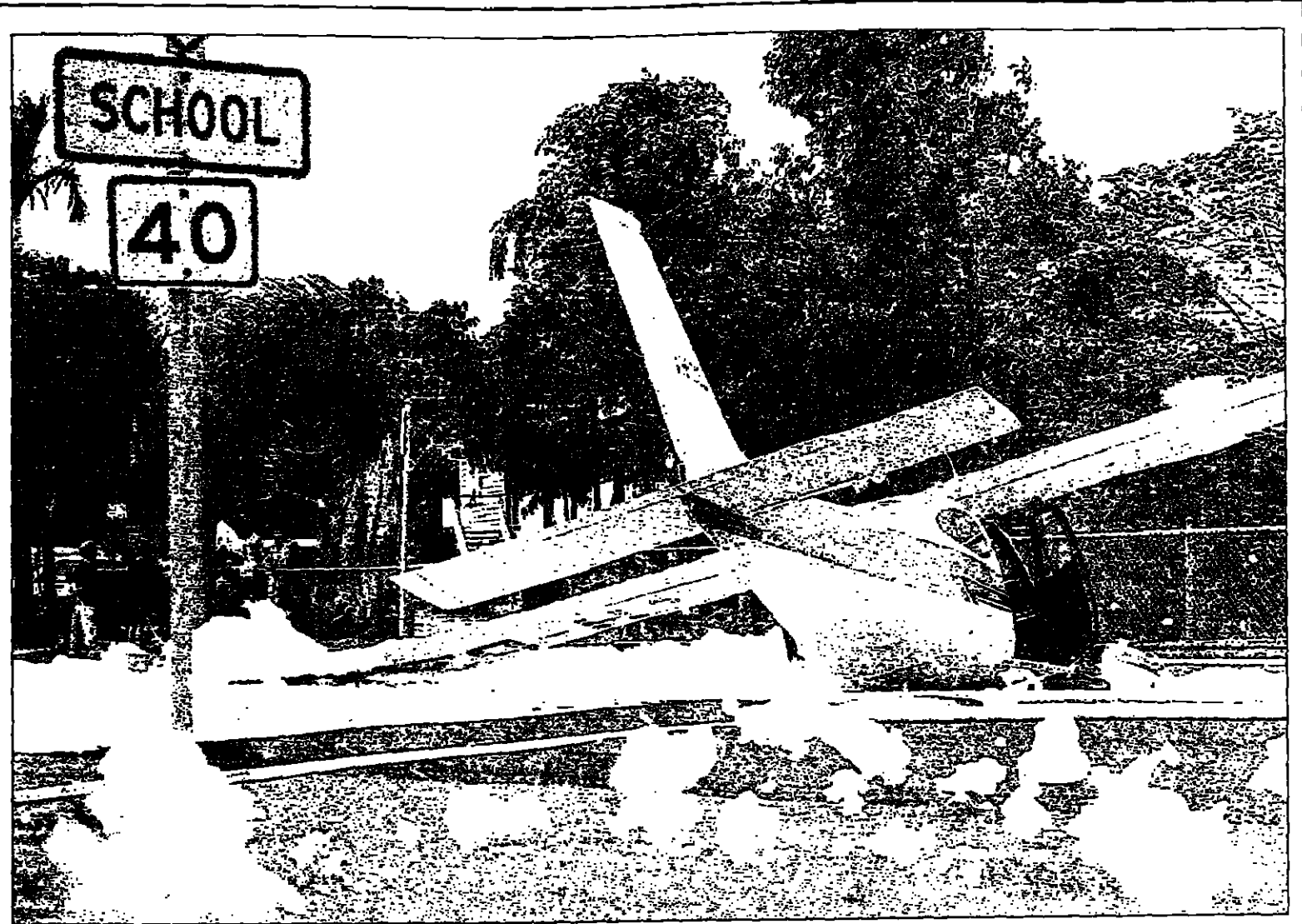
Mr O'Brien said that some domestic workers who had been subject to physical abuse had found it difficult to leave their employer because their passports had been removed and they had no money.

He has held talks with Kalayaan, the campaign for justice for overseas domestic workers, about improving the conditions under which servants are employed and whether minimum terms of employment could be introduced.

A spokeswoman for Kalayaan said that domestic staff should be admitted as workers in their own right and not be tied to another individual. She said that they received many complaints from domestic servants about employers holding on to their passports, paying very low wages and making them work 18 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some never get time off but cannot escape because they have no money or passport," she added.

A survey by the organisation last year found that 50 per cent of domestic servants slept on the floor, and 81 per cent were not paid regularly or received less than arranged. Others complained of being locked in the house when the employer went out.



The Cessna plane which crash-landed on a road near a school in Cairns, Queensland, and one of the passengers, left, being helped away

## Britons pulled from plane crash on road

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITISH couple escaped serious injury after the light aircraft in which they were flying crash-landed on a main road beside a school playground in Australia.

Lee Medway, 29, an RAF corporal, and his wife Leigh-Anne, 30, from St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, were pulled from the smoking wreckage of the Cessna 172 by the headmaster and walked away almost unscathed. They were the only passengers on the Reef Air Tours plane which was forced to land on the road in Cairns, Queensland, after developing engine trouble.

The pilot, David Manners, who scrambled out of the plane before collapsing

against a fence, is being treated for head and back injuries but the couple were released from Cairns Base Hospital and allowed to return to their hotel.

A hospital spokesman said: "They are fine. It appears they were very lucky."

Mr Medway has served in the repair support squadron at RAF St Athan for seven years and the couple live in married quarters at the base. He was able to use his flying knowledge to give police a detailed description of what happened during the emergency shortly after take-off.

A police spokesman said: "They landed upright and collided with a street sign, then the plane spun around

and stopped abruptly on the road. It was incredible no one was killed. The pilot steered the plane through power lines and dodged the school."

Rescuers shut off the aircraft's fuel system and disconnected electrical systems to make it safe. Fuel was leaking out of the port wing.

Police said the Civil Aviation Safety Authority had taken possession of the aircraft and the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation had launched an inquiry.

Mr and Mrs Medway were back at the Colonial Club Resort in Cairns last night, where a spokeswoman said that they did not wish to be disturbed.



## Detainees go on protest rampage

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FIFTY immigration detainees went on the rampage yesterday to protest at the removal of an inmate from a detention centre run by Group 4.

Fires were lit in the library block at the centre and furnishings in other areas were smashed during the disturbances, which broke out early in the morning.

One hundred Thames Valley police, including some in full riot uniform, were moved to Campfield House at Kidlington in Oxfordshire to ensure there was no mass break-out by the 184 detainees.

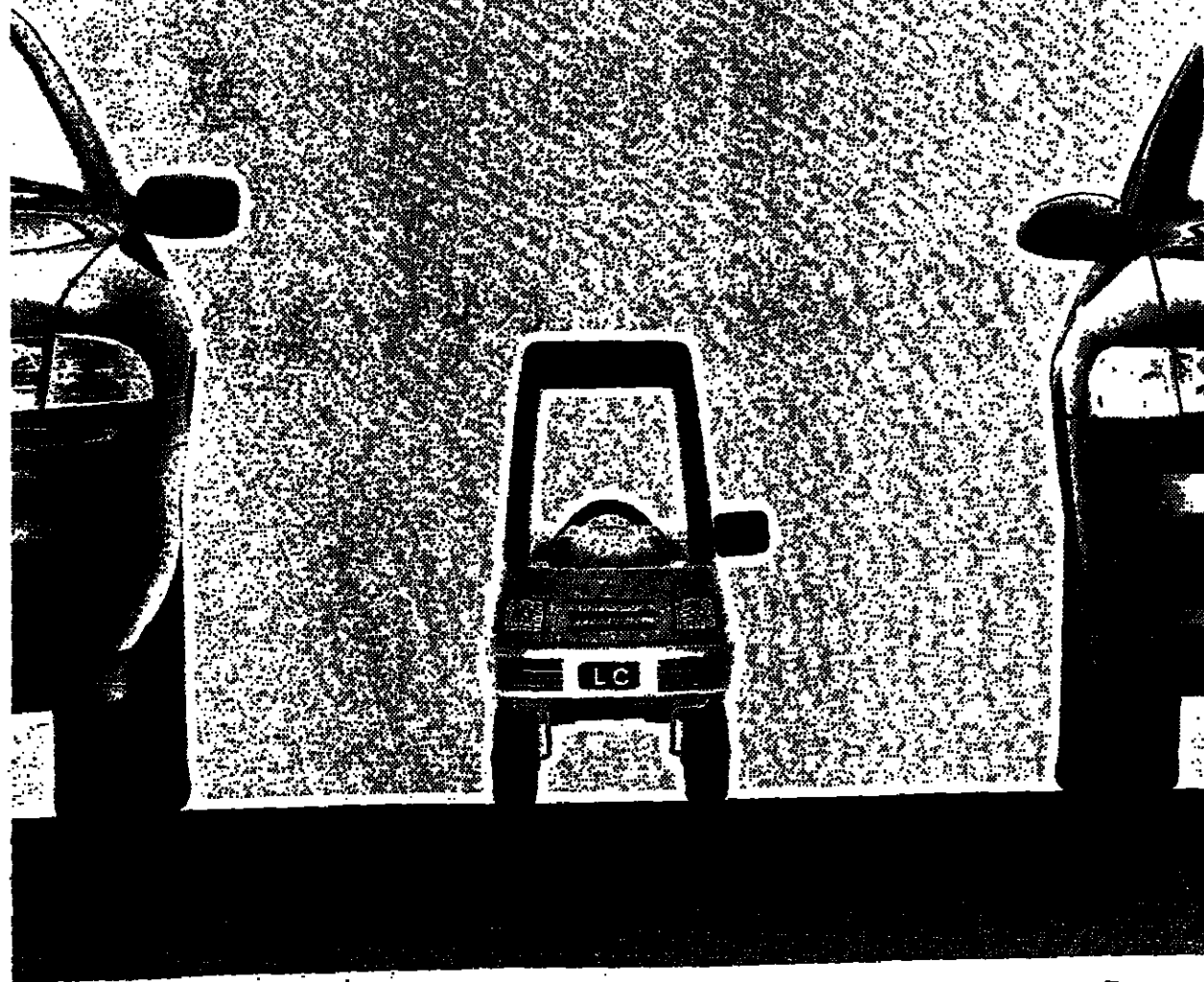
Police dogs and horses were stationed around the perimeter of the immigration detention centre as protests by a core of about 25 continued in the exercise yard throughout the day. A police helicopter

was also used. Two Group 4 staff were injured during the disturbances, which took place three months after a rooftop protest at the centre.

Dr Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat MP for the area, said last night that the detention centre was a "powder keg" waiting to explode. Keeping asylum-seekers and immigration detainees cooped up was a recipe for disaster. Dr Harris added that that something was very wrong with the way the centre was being run.

The present situation with detainees being removed to cells in Winslow Green jail, Birmingham, without notice and hordes of bored and depressed detainees milling around in centres without adequate access to help or advice is a recipe for disaster.

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# GCSE results show pupils still have a long way to go

Education Minister says that the small rise is way off target for Britain's future success, report  
**John O'Leary and David Charter**

THE second small rise in GCSE pass rates in three years left schools well adrift of the Government's qualifications targets yesterday, despite another set of record results.

Experts said the increase of less than half a percentage point in the proportion of papers reaching the equivalent of the old O level signalled the end of the grade inflation which undermined the examination's credibility in its early years. The pass rate for A\* to C grades was 54.4 per cent.

The rise was the smallest since GCSE was introduced in 1988 with the exception of two

years ago, when coursework limits were imposed. The top two grades showed even smaller rises, with 3.6 per cent of entries attracting the A\*.

Lucas places ..... pages 36-37

Kim Howells, the Education and Employment Minister, said that candidates and their teachers should be proud of their achievements, but added: "We need many more of our young people achieving good results if we are to meet the very demanding standards we intend to set for national educational performance."

By 2000, ministers expect 85 per cent of 19-year-olds to have five high-grade GCSEs or

their equivalent, compared with about 70 per cent this year. The Government will set a separate target for 16-year-olds in the autumn, which officials said would require "further significant improvements".

Dr Howells expressed particular concern about a decline in English, where the pass rate dropped for the second successive year and entries were also down. While the number of 16-year olds fell by 1.3 per cent, entries for English fell by more than 2 per cent.

Alan Smithers, the head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said the GCSE pass rates appeared to have reached a plateau: "This is the sort of increase which carries credibility. Some of the previous swings were due to changes in the system."

Traditional subjects showed a slump in popularity, with fewer taking English, French, geography, history, mathematics, economics, chemistry, biology and physics.

In contrast, more than a million grades were awarded in the combined science paper for the first time. There had been hopes last year that single-subject students were recovering, but subject experts said yesterday that decline was virtually guaranteed by a ruling that students at state



Helen Anderson, left, is considering legal action against her college after claiming that she failed an A level because she was taught the wrong syllabus. Miss Anderson, 18, lost her preferred university place because of the N grade in business studies. Her classmate, Louise Marshall, right, managed a C grade

## Girl may sue over failure

because she had also studied accountancy. The syllabus blunder allegedly came to light three days before the examination, during revision at Washington Business College, near Sunder-

land. Miss Anderson, of Washington, said: "We put an awful lot of work into our studies for two years for nothing." Her mother, Carolyn, said: "We have consulted a solicitor and are considering legal action." The college said it had done everything it could to prepare its students for their examinations.

schools must either take the combined course or all three subjects separately. Only independent school students can choose one or two.

Entries were down 2.3 per cent for chemistry and 3.3 per cent in physics. Aside from about 70,000 entries in single

combined science, the total of a million grades for combined science reflects nearly 500,000 entries for the "double award" combined science course.

Caroline McGrath, of the Association for Science Education, said: "The vast majority of pupils are doing the double

award. The A-to-C percentage reflects that the top ability range are doing the three separately."

Entries were up 15 per cent for computing, 9 per cent for physical education, 7.6 per cent for home economics and 4 per cent for drama.

## Short courses win fewer top grades

By DAVID CHARTER

THE first results from short-course GCSEs, which cover half the content of a full GCSE, show that pupils struggled to achieve top grades.

Candidates recorded one third fewer passes at A\* and at the old O level threshold of C grade and above than those taking full GCSEs.

Short courses were introduced last year for three main reasons: to allow

students to gain a qualification in subjects they are required to take until they leave school, such as PE and religious studies; to give them a year-long taste of an extra subject, such as Spanish or German; or to continue with a subject otherwise dropped at 14, such as geography or history.

The lower success rate may mean that students either took them less seriously than full GCSEs or treated them as an experiment with a certain

subject. Just 30,683 short-course results were recorded this year and a far greater number is expected in 1998 as the qualification begins to catch on in schools. The qualification can be taken over one year or in half the weekly time over two years.

The A-to-C pass rate of 93.4 per cent compares with 98.5 per cent at the full GCSE. Just under 40 per cent of short courses were passed at A\* to C, against 54.4 per cent for full GCSE, and the 2.4

per cent A\*s on short courses was two thirds of the full course rate.

The most popular of the 12 "half-GCSE" subjects was religious education, taken by more than one third of this year's candidates, which had the second highest A\* to C pass rate of 47.1 per cent.

Music had the highest rate for top grades, with 11.8 per cent of the 152 candidates recording an A\*, and 64.5 per cent a grade C or above.

### GCSE RESULTS 1997

Subject	No of Candidates	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE of candidates gaining grade or better							
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Art and Design	221,543	5.5	18.6	36.5	62.1	80.1	91.5	97.3	99.6
	226,882	4.6	16.9	34.3	59.2	77.9	90.4	96.9	99.5
Business Studies	115,498	2.2	10.5	25.7	51.1	70.7	83.1	92.0	96.6
	114,648	2.1	9.8	23.8	49.1	69.5	81.9	91.3	96.3
Classical Civ	3,644	6.9	28.1	52.1	75.1	88.0	92.0	94.7	96.4
	3,447	6.0	25.9	49.9	74.1	87.7	90.5	92.9	94.4
Drama	85,500	3.5	19.5	45.4	69.6	84.5	93.6	97.9	99.6
	82,165	3.7	20.7	47.9	72.5	87.0	94.8	98.4	99.6
Economics	9,600	3.1	16.7	38.9	64.5	82.0	88.9	93.8	96.2
	11,127	2.9	15.4	36.0	61.7	79.6	87.7	92.8	95.6
English	649,589	2.0	10.7	29.5	56.0	78.0	90.4	97.2	99.5
	663,009	2.0	11.0	30.3	56.8	78.6	90.5	97.2	99.5
English Literature	492,678	2.8	13.7	35.5	62.2	80.7	91.7	97.8	99.4
	491,650	2.7	13.9	36.2	63.2	81.1	92.1	97.8	99.5
French	328,299	4.1	19.2	34.1	51.2	69.8	83.2	94.0	99.2
	345,550	4.4	19.2	33.7	50.9	69.1	82.6	93.7	99.3
Geography	290,201	3.9	16.4	34.9	56.1	71.9	85.1	94.1	98.4
	302,268	4.0	15.6	33.5	53.7	70.9	84.5	93.7	98.2
German	132,615	5.7	22.0	37.4	55.9	73.9	86.0	94.9	99.0
	133,177	5.3	21.3	37.0	55.6	73.2	85.1	94.6	99.2
Greek	947	50.7	76.9	88.4	96.0	99.0	99.4	99.4	99.5
	965	48.0	72.6	87.0	94.2	97.5	97.9	98.0	98.0
History	227,447	4.3	17.5	38.0	58.0	72.9	84.4	92.5	97.6
	232,011	4.1	16.6	36.8	57.0	72.0	83.8	92.4	97.5
Home Economics	104,863	1.8	9.6	24.5	44.1	64.9	82.5	93.3	98.2
	97,453	1.5	8.7	23.4	43.2	64.0	81.8	92.2	98.1
Humanities	35,562	2.2	9.6	23.2	42.1	61.6	78.9	91.2	97.9
	45,982	2.3	10.6	26.4	44.1	61.7	77.4	90.5	98.4
Computing	76,043	2.8	12.3	32.7	57.1	75.2	87.4	94.3	97.4
	86,134	2.7	11.4	30.3	55.3	73.3	85.3	93.4	97.1
Latin	11,573	26.8	59.2	79.8	91.4	96.5	97.4	97.8	98.0
	12,174	21.1	54.6	77.0	89.8	96.0	96.9	97.4	97.8
Mathematics	681,265	2.1	9.6	24.2	47.3	63.8	79.4	91.6	97.9
	688,330	2.1	9.1	23.4	46.7	63.1	78.8	91.3	97.8
Music	43,430	6.7	25.7	50.1	70.1	82.6	91.3	96.5	99.1
	42,122	6.9	24.9	48.5	68.1	82.0	90.9	96.5	99.2
Physical Education	87,106	4.4	13.5	28.6	47.5	72.6	88.6	96.7	99.3
	80,031	3.9	12.7	27.7	46.5	70.6	87.7	96.2	99.2
Religious Studies	118,545	4.9	17.0	35.7	56.7	71.8	83.4	91.9	97.2
	116,549	4.4	16.4	35.2	55.9	70.6	82.7	91.6	96.9
Science: Biology	47,743	10.6	35.0	65.1	84.5	92.9	97.3	99.0	99.2
	46,276	10.5	33.5	63.8	83.4	92.5	97.2	99.0	99.2
Science: Chemistry	45,797	13.7	35.6	64.9	86.8	94.2	97.7	99.0	99.2
	46,885	11.5	34.2	63.6	86.0	94.0	97.5	99.0	99.2
Science: Combined	1,007,840	3.5	10.4	28.0	48.4	70.2	86.4	95.5	98.3
	997,422	3.1	10.2	27.8	48.2	69.8	86.1	95.4	98.4
Science: Physics	44,992	13.6	36.2	65.7	86.2	93.8	97.6	99.1	99.2
	46,446	13.3	35.3	65.5	85.3	92.9	97.0	98.8	99.0
Social Science	4,997	1.1	5.8	18.8	38.3	59.5	78.1	88.1	95.1
	4,441	0.7	4.4	16.0	36.9	57.6	72.6	85.8	93.8
Spanish	43,826	8.4	28.4	44.9	69.3	73.1	83.3	93.9	99.2
	42,592	7.7	28.3	43.4	68.4	74.0	84.4	94.1	99.0
Technology	235,877	1.8	9.4	28.4	48.9	67.4	83.7	93.9	98.4
	247,821	1.7	8.9	25.5	45.9	66.1	82.6	93.4	98.4
Welsh 1st Lang	3,809	2.0	13.1	33.2	62.0	83.4	94.1	98.0	99.6
	3,844	1.7	12.0	31.4	60.1	86.3	96.6	98.8	99.6
Welsh 2nd Lang	7,438	10.8	27.0	40.7	59.8	76.4	88.1	95.4	98.5
	7,848	10.6	26.4	41.5	59.2	75.0	86.7	94.6	98.4
Welsh Literature	2,931	3.1	15.7	33.5	62.1	80.0	90.4	95.8	98.7
	2,940	3.9	13.8	30.7	57.8	78.2	88.6	94.9	98.0
Combined Subjects	31,011	1.1	8.0	26.0	49.6	69.7	85.1	94.9	99.0
	37,334	0.9	6.9	23.6	46.1	66.5	83.0	93.5	98.5
Other Mod Langs	29,934	17.8	47.3	64.0	76.4	87.1	93.3	97.7	99.8
	28,866	16.1	46.4	62.8	75.6	85.8	93.0	97.7	99.7
Other Sciences	22,484	2.9	10.7	26.1	49.5	70.4	84.8	90.6	93.0
	25,336	2.8	10.8	26.7	50.0	69.6	83.9	89.7	92.0
Other Soc Sciences	38,769	2.2	11.5	31.2	60.3	80.2	86.9	91.1	93.1
	41,589	2.0	11.6	31.8	61.2	80.1	86.3	90.3	92.3
Other Technology	22,862	2.4	11.5	25.1	44.0	62.0	79.0	91.2	97.5
	23,381	2.9	12.3	26.6	44.6	64.4	81.6	92.7	98.2
All Other Subjects	109,748	2.2	12.6	31.8	56.8	75.3	87.9	95.2	98.5
	112,917	2.3	12.8	31.6	56.1	74.9	87.7	95.1	98.6
All Subjects	5,415,176	3.6	14.0	32.1	54.4	73.1	86.5	94.8	98.5
	5,475,872	3.4	13.7	31.7	54.0	72.6	86.0	94.7	98.5

1996 results in italics

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

# Boy's death raises cliff-jumping fears

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY has died after plunging from cliffs on to under-water rocks in what police fear is a new craze of cliff-jumping, in which teenagers urge each other to leap from great heights into the sea.

Coastal patrollers have reported seeing dozens of young boys jumping into the sea along the South Tyneside coast.

Neil Nicholson, 15, was found lying motionless in the water at the foot of cliffs at Frenchman's Bay, near South Shields, on Tuesday. A friend had dragged him from the water on to rocks and tried to save him, but Neil slipped back into the water while his friend tried to get help. He had been floating in the water for between ten and 15 minutes before firefighters and coastguards were able to reach him. He was pronounced dead on arrival at South Tyneside General Hospital.

Yesterday South Shields police said that he had suffered a head injury, but they were still trying to establish



Peter Collins, left, has seen teenagers jumping at least 50ft at the spot where Neil Nicholson, right, died

how he died. He was wearing a wetsuit, as was his friend. These are often worn by cliff-jumpers.

However, police said there was no evidence to suggest that Neil and his friend had been jumping into the water. Chief Inspector Glynn Williams, of South Shields police, said: "As far as we are aware the boy has lost his footing and suffered a heavy blow to the head on the way down.

Everyone tried their best to rescue him, but the tide was high and this was in an awkward spot."

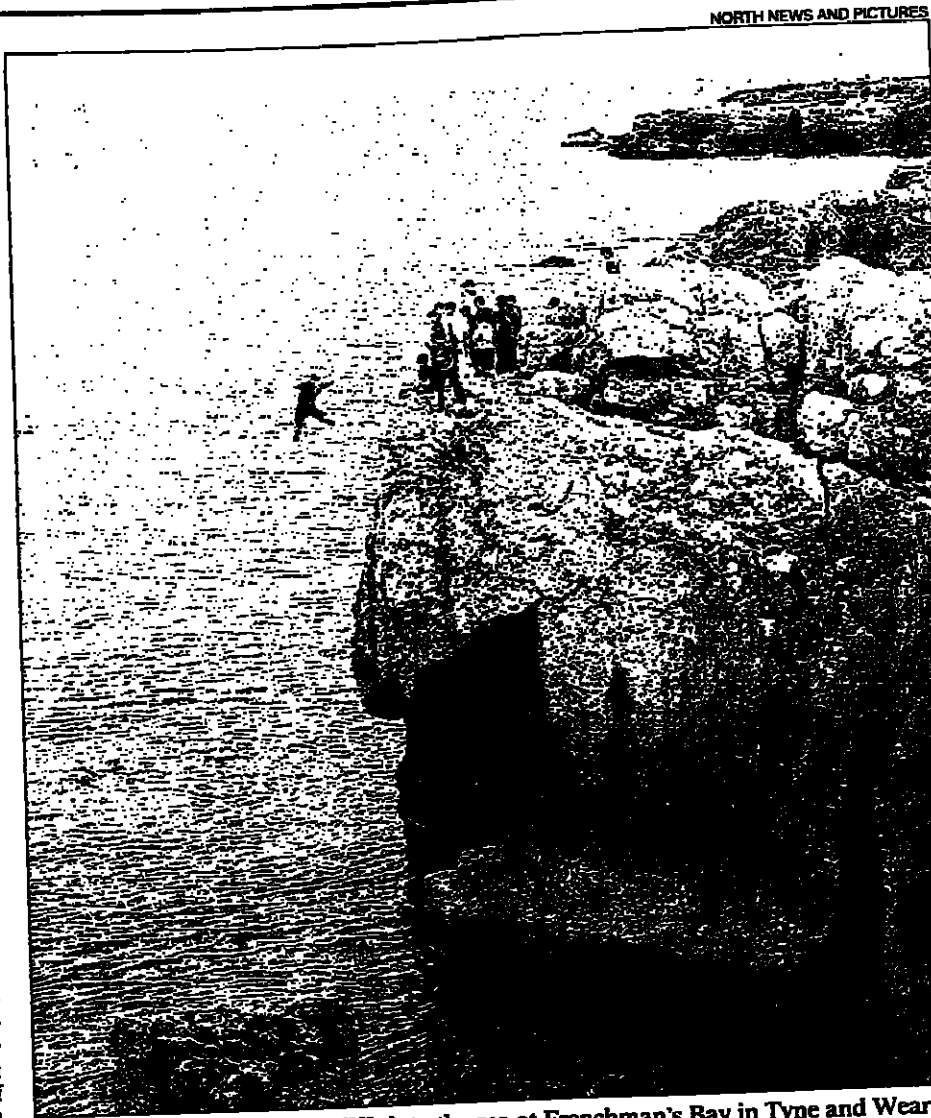
Station Officer Dave Hamilton, of South Shields Fire Brigade, said the boy's friend told crews they had been throwing stones into the water. He said: "He told me they had been climbing when his friend lost his balance and fell. He managed to scramble down to the water to his

friend, but he already looked very bad. He then went to raise the alarm and get help."

Last night Neil's father, Norman, 42, said: "Neil was a typical teenage lad who liked to do things people of that age do. He was certainly not jumping off cliffs into the sea. He was climbing over a high rock when he lost his footing and slipped. But he was not 50ft up at the time. Neil was wearing a wetsuit because he had been bodysurfing."

"We are all devastated. His friend is very upset, too. I have been round to see him and he is in a terrible state. He did all he could to pull Neil out of the water."

Peter Collins, a National Trust warden in the area, said he had seen a number of teenagers plunging from the cliffs at Frenchman's Bay. He said the divers often seemed to be showing off to watching girls. "They may feel very macho, but they are extremely foolhardy because the water isn't very clear at the moment and they are in great danger of hurting into rocks lurking under the surface."



Youths leaping from the cliffs into the sea at Frenchman's Bay in Tyne and Wear

## Scientists take the sting out of vaccines

By A STAFF REPORTER

VACCINATIONS may be made painless by a new technique which involves painting genetically engineered viruses on the skin.

The procedure has been tested only on mice, but the American development team says it could lead to painless vaccines which would not have to be administered by nurses or doctors.

Vaccines encourage the production of antibodies by exposing the body to weakened infectious organisms, or the toxins they produce. Most are administered by injection because, if swallowed, they would be destroyed by the digestive system.

The new method, developed by the genetics expert De-Chu Tang and scientists from the University of Alabama, uses viruses to carry the vaccine components into the body through the skin.

In one experiment, an immune response was seen in 23 out of 24 vaccinated mice. In another test, six out of 14 mice produced antibodies.

## £80,000 is awarded in claims of Met assault

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THREE men won £80,000 in damages plus costs from the Metropolitan Police yesterday. They had claimed that in two separate incidents they were assaulted by officers who then fabricated evidence against them.

Mark Thomas, 27, who was arrested in 1989 at a demonstration over the death of a friend, accepted £30,000 in settlement of an civil claim against the police. Timothy Murphy, 33, and John Racz, 37, who were arrested in a pub incident, accepted £30,000 and £20,000 respectively.

The officers involved in both incidents denied the allegations against them and the Metropolitan Police has not accepted liability.

After a statement setting out the terms of the settlements had been read out at the Central London County Court, Judge Gailman, who was presiding, said it had vindicated the three men.

Mr Thomas, of West London, was arrested after a demonstration at which, he claimed, he was kicked by a police officer. He was forcibly restrained by a second officer; the other policeman punched him in the face and grabbed him around the throat.

The officers had claimed that, during the demonstration, Mr Thomas had thrust a pole at the police and shouted "One of you is going to die". Mr Thomas was charged with affray and assault but at the end of a trial in 1990, the judge directed the jury to enter a not-guilty verdict after finding that he had no case to answer.

In 1991 a stipendiary magistrate at Marylebone Magis-

trates Court cleared Mr Murphy, of Stanwell, Surrey, of assault and obstruction and Mr Racz, of West London, of threatening behaviour. The men had been arrested after being told to leave a public house where Mr Murphy's wife had been helping to cash up at the end of the evening.

Mr Murphy was punched in the stomach and ribs and his head was struck against the ground. Mr Racz was dragged from a flat and pinned against a wall.

Outside the court, Mr Murphy criticised the attitude of the Metropolitan Police. "I think it is disgraceful that we have had no apology," he said. Mr Thomas said he would celebrate with his family.

Fiona Murphy, the solicitor who represented all three men, said that they had brought civil actions rather than rely on the police complaints process. She criticised Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, for not apologising to the men.

In a statement, Scotland Yard said that had any of the men made a complaint to the police, it would have been investigated. None of them had done so; they had chosen to pursue civil actions, the statement said.

It added that members of the public were increasingly "inclined to take out civil actions against the police rather than make a formal complaint as they stand a high chance of obtaining a large financial settlement. This is frustrating for the police, who are unable to bring disciplinary charges without co-operation from the plaintiff."

## Censors urged to come out of dark

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH film censors may be forced to justify their decisions in public under new plans being considered by the Government.

The British Board of Film Classification, which decides the classification of films in secret, would have to operate in a spirit of openness if the overhaul takes place. It has always maintained that, to do the job properly, it must conduct its business behind closed doors.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is said to be looking closely at the board because of concern over screen violence and the certificates given to films.

James Ferman, the director of the board, has been criticised for refusing to discuss controversial decisions such

as giving the film *Crash* a certificate and rating *The Lost World*, the sequel to *Jurassic Park*, as PG.

Yesterday the board denied that any review was taking place. Margaret Ford, the deputy director, said: "The BBFC has no knowledge of a radical shake-up of its organisation by the Home Office."

"All controversial decisions are the subject of press statements and are discussed in detail in the annual reports that are laid before Parliament and sent to all national newspapers."

The Home Office said there were no immediate plans to review the procedure, but insiders insist that Mr Straw believes the system needs modernising.

Film reviews, page 31

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# New cities spawned pride and squalor

THE 19th century was an age of cities. At its outset, London was the only city in England and Wales with a population that exceeded 100,000. By the time Victoria started her reign, that number had increased to six. At her death, the total had reached 25 and was still climbing.

During Victoria's rule, the proportion of the British population living in cities of such magnitude had all but doubled, to reach a third of the country. Britain had evolved from a rural society to an urban/suburban one in her lifetime.

London's population increased from 1.75 million to 4.25 million. Glasgow's command of Scotland was even more pronounced. The city contained 5 per cent of Scottish residents in 1801. That figure had reached 9 per cent in 1837 and would double before Edward VII became King.

The status of "city" was important for provincial towns as their populations increased. The struggle for official recognition occupied the energies of city fathers. Manchester was formally designated a city in 1853. Liverpool in 1880, Leeds in 1893 and Birmingham in 1896.

The full flowering of the industrial revolution combined with the advent of the railways to create the conditions for mass urbanisation. Trams, and in London the growing Underground network, provided modest fur-

**Tim Hames on oppression and reform in the mean streets of the 19th century**



ther assistance in the final two decades of the century. But the health consequences of this rush to the slums was catastrophic.

A set of particularly unpleasant outbreaks of cholera and advances in medical understanding promoted enthusiasm for the "Sanity Idea". It was not until the 1870s that Parliament produced the sort of measures that would eventually improve living conditions and force down levels of mortality.

The knowledge that the cities represented squalor as well as progress may explain the mixed views that leading Victorians had about the urban boom taking place around them. Fascination was tinged with horror. In the 1890s H.G. Wells described the expansion of the cities as a "sustained disaster". John Ruskin referred to the "great foul city of London" and William Morris called the capital "hideous".

In terms of their human quality, almost all cities had

improved dramatically by the time of Victoria's death. Modern medicine had finally made its mark. Furthermore, the emergence of dynamic local authorities had begun the process of slum clearance and widespread sanitation. The most striking example was Birmingham, especially during Joseph Chamberlain's period as Mayor in the 1870s.

He municipalised the gas and water works, purchased large tracts of slumland for public improvement schemes, and revolutionised public expectations about city government. He was supported by an exceptional political machine

based on the Birmingham Liberal caucus. This organisation was the nearest that any British city came to the political parties common in American urban administration.

The Victorian antipathy to cities was based on rather more than their external appearances. The political consequences of social change were feared in many quarters. Cities were seen as the preserve of the "masses", thrown together with little chance of aristocratic influence. The Established Church was relatively weak compared with the combined forces of Nonconformism and secularism.

Middle-class radicalism and rising working-class identity represented threats to the Victorian order. Manchester, not London, was the birthplace of the Anti-Corn Law League and the same city was associated with the Chartist movement of the 1830s and 1840s. Birmingham produced its Liberal caucus, but Glasgow and the cities of northern England would spawn and nurture the Labour Party.



Glasgow's Argyle Street in the late 1890s. Many solidly built tenement homes of that era are much sought after

A TIME-CAPSULE of late Victorian Glasgow is preserved in the Tenement House in the city centre, more or less untouched since it was built in 1892. A family that took up residence in 1911 altered virtually nothing and stayed until 1975. The last occupant was Agnes Toward, a typist with a shipping firm. Her rosewood piano is still there, so is the old kitchen range and the kitchen sink with brass taps and zinc wash-

**A glimpse behind the door of history**

board. Tenement sinks were known as jawboxes: near the window, they were the place where neighbours talked across the courtyard. The Tenement

House has a bedroom, but Miss Toward and her mother before her probably reserved that for lodgers. They themselves would have slept in the boxbed, a cupboard in the kitchen kept warm by the adjacent range. In less genteel tenements, boxbeds would have accommodated whole families. □ The Tenement House, 145 Buccleuch Street: open daily until October 31, 2pm-5pm. Tel 0141-333 0183.



St George's Hall: vision of justice and the arts

## Hall of fame grew strong as young architect faded

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

VICTORIA described it as worthy of ancient Athens. The Prince of Wales says it is one of the greatest buildings of the past 200 years.

The neo-classical St George's Hall in Liverpool was built in an era when confidence and wealth went hand in hand in the great maritime city. Harvey Lonsdale Elmes won a contest to design a hall for a musical festival, and a separate competition to design an assize court. The city fathers combined the two. Elmes was just 23.

Work began in 1842. The frail and pale Elmes, from London, superintended at huge cost to his health. At 30, he contracted tuberculosis and died three years later.

Architects have marvelled that the young man could have come up with such a colossal vision: his father said he was a martyr to the god of

architecture. The work was completed by Elmes's more robust mentor, Professor C.R. Cockerell.

The building played a central role in the city's life until 1984, when the judges left for a modern complex. In 1867, Dickens delivered readings in the hall. W.S. Gilbert was a barrister in the civil court. More than 2,000 convicts walked down the stone steps to the condemned cell.

Among its features are a sunken tile floor made by Minton of Stoke-on-Trent. Today the trustees are hoping for £30 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the building.

St George's Hall, Liverpool. Open daily until August 31: £2.00 adults, 50p children. OAPs and unwaged. From September, serves as a conference centre, but tours available on 0151-707 2391.

### NEXT

The last of the series: Victorian religion and death

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

# Arafat links up with militants to defy Israelis

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT'S Palestinian Authority yesterday sought out militant Islamic groups to forge a common front against Israel in light of the Arab world's deepening disillusionment over the peace process.

Mr Arafat convened a two-day forum in Gaza City, with the participation of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, in what he called "national unity" talks. He called on the militant groups to join forces with the Palestinian people against Israeli policies.

Mr Arafat said that "all options are open to the Palestinians against Israel's attempts to humiliate them".

The military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are open enemies of the Jewish State and have claimed responsibility for the suicide

bombings against its citizens in recent years.

Observers described as significant Mr Arafat's decision to hold a dialogue with Hamas so soon after last month's double suicide bombing which killed 15 people. The meeting was being seen as a public forum to air Palestinian anger over Israeli sanctions after the attack, including closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an senior adviser to Mr Arafat, said the meeting would continue today but in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "All the Palestinians under the flag of the PLO are standing together to face the challenges and the crisis," he said. Asked about Israeli criticism over the participation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, he replied: "This

is an internal Palestinian affair. This is the Palestinian Authority policy to contain all the Palestinian groups under the flag of the PLO."

If such unity could be achieved, those groups would be obliged to cease their criticism of the PLO decision to sign peace accords with Israel in 1993. But militant Hamas officials based outside the Palestinian areas said that the organisation would push Mr Arafat to scrap the accords and begin a new armed struggle.

Israeli security officials viewed the participation of the fundamentalist groups in yesterday's meeting as a sign of their satisfaction over Mr Arafat's refusal to crack down on militant Islamic movements. His willingness to talk to Hamas leaders rather than arresting them sent a clear

message that he does not take orders from America or Israel.

Yesterday Israel's air force launched its biggest attack in Lebanon for 16 months in retaliation for a Hezbollah rocket attack against the Jewish state. Warplanes blasted a power line feeding south Leba-

non's largest city and Hezbollah guerrilla bases west of the border with Syria, and dropped bombs near a Lebanese Army position.

The three strikes, in the space of two hours, added to a spiral of violence that began on Monday and has pushed to the brink of collapse a 1996

agreement not to target civilians on the last active Arab-Israeli front line.

Washington: New American peace initiatives in the Middle East were stalled once again by Mr Arafat's declaration yesterday that he would not submit to Israeli demands for a crackdown on terrorism



Yassir Arafat and Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, a top leader of Hamas, at the national unity meeting in Gaza yesterday

## Mir crew in space 'plug' for milk

Jerusalem: A hole in his space station was not the only thing Vassili Tsibilyev, the former commander of the Mir space station, plugged on his star-crossed mission: he also made a television commercial for Israeli milk.

Channel Two television yesterday broadcast a preview of the advertisement showing Mr Tsibilyev swallowing a floating globule of long-life milk which he squeezed out of a carton covered with Hebrew script.

The 'Milk in Space' advertisement is the story of a cosmonaut who, hundreds of miles away in space and months away from home, craves fresh-tasting milk, said a spokeswoman for Gitam/BBDO, the advertising agency that produced the commercial for Tnuva, Israel's biggest food manufacturer.

She said \$450,000 (£280,000) was budgeted for the 90-second advertisement and a fee, which she declined to disclose, was paid to the Russian Space Agency. She said she did not know if the crew were paid. (Reuters)

(Tom Rhodes writes). His statements further undermined efforts by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, to bring momentum to the otherwise deflated peace process. Ms Albright is set to visit the region but the trip's details have yet to be announced.

## Blunders led to jet crash

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A CATALOGUE of errors was blamed yesterday for the crash of a ValuJet aircraft last year which plummeted into the Florida Everglades killing all 110 people on board.

The National Transportation and Safety Board said the Federal Aviation Administration, a maintenance contractor, and ValuJet Airlines, one of America's cheapest carriers, were all responsible for the crash.

Investigators found that a cargo hold fire spread rapidly through the DC9 soon after take-off from Miami International airport in May last year. The plane, which had no fire detection or suppression systems in the hold, spiralled nose-first into the alligator-filled swamp.

The most strident criticism in the board's report was reserved for the FAA. "Had the FAA required fire/smoke-detection and/or fire-extinguishing systems in the cargo compartments, as the safety board recommended in 1988, ValuJet Flight 592 would likely not have crashed," said the report.

In tracing the causes, investigators had found 144 oxygen generators removed by Sabre-Tech, the maintenance firm, from another ValuJet aircraft and placed on Flight 592 for

shipment to the airline's hub in Atlanta.

Normally the generators, each the size of a small beer can, are installed above the passenger compartment and are activated automatically in the event of unexpected decompression at high altitudes. The reaction generates heat as high as 500F but, when installed in the ceiling, the canisters are insulated.

On the flight in question, however, the 144 crated generators were carried as cargo. Maintenance men said the outdated canisters were incorrectly marked as repairable and a stock clerk compounded the error by directing a shipment clerk to label them as empty. Despite still containing highly reactive chemicals, they were then stored uninsulated in the hold on top of two large inflatable tyres.

Shortly before or after take off to Atlanta, at least one of the canisters fell from its box, detonating an in-built percussion cap that set off the oxygen-generating reaction which led to the tyres bursting into flames.

Amid the recorded shouts of "Fire, fire, fire" from passengers, the plane plunged 6,000 ft in 30 seconds, leveling off momentarily before plunging into the swamp.

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# 11 feared dead in French grain silo explosion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A HUGE explosion in a grain silo near Bordeaux in western France yesterday morning left 11 workers buried and feared dead beneath tonnes of concrete rubble and grain.

A twelfth man was pulled from the destroyed Sembla cereals plant at the port of Blaye on the Gironde River north of Bordeaux, but as scores of firemen and rescue workers dug through the wreckage last night, hopes of finding more survivors were fading. Six other workers were treated for minor injuries.

Firefighters said that the blast probably was caused by a build-up of static electricity and dust particles in the silo, combined with fermentation of the grain in the summer heat. Some workers for the cereal storage company were loading a ship when the explosion took place shortly after 10am local time, destroying one 100ft silo and badly damaging two others.

"There was an enormous ball of fire," one witness said. A passing lorry driver said he saw "windows exploding and flames reaching 50 metres into the air". More than 150 rescue

workers, using sniffer dogs and helicopters, were combing through the mounds of concrete, metal and grain, but the danger of the two damaged silos collapsing was impeding rescue efforts, a firefighter said. The silos contained more than 13,000 cubic metres of corn, oats and barley.

"We have done everything that can be done by hand. We are waiting for heavy machinery to do the rest," Michel Falot, chief of the fire brigade, said yesterday.

Most of the missing workers are believed to have been in an office between two of the silos when the explosion happened, destroying the platform underneath the building from which the cereals were being loaded. The explosion could be heard from several miles away, according to radio reports. The injured man pulled from the devastated building was flown to hospital in Bordeaux, suffering from a broken leg and severe shock.

Jean-Claude Gaysot, the Transport and Housing Minister, flew to the scene of the disaster and said that he had given immediate orders for



Firefighters, above, search for survivors among the wreckage of the grain silo at Blaye and, below, a general view of the site of the disaster

new safety precautions. He said that he and Christian Piarret, Secretary of State for Industry, had "given instructions that in every department in every region of France, local authorities carry out the necessary checks to ensure that such an incident can never happen again".

Six hours after the initial explosion, rescue workers had still not been able to dig down to the destroyed office where the missing workers, eight of them company secretaries, were thought to be buried.

By early evening sniffer dogs had located four people under the rubble, and cranes

were being brought in to remove the heavy concrete debris to try to free them.

In October 1982, 12 people were killed in a similar accident when a silo containing malt exploded near Metz. Investigators concluded that the blast was caused by a build-up of dust and insufficient ventilation.

Grain silo explosions are a known risk. Jean-Claude Laforest, of the Government's INRS research institute, said. Grain stored in static conditions poses little danger, but when cereal dust is stirred up into a cloud it becomes highly combustible, M Laforest said.

## Keyhole cannabis derails train drivers

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

FANS are to be installed in South African commuter trains to blow away the smoke from dagga, locally grown cannabis, which is threatening to send drivers off the rails. Doors to the drivers' tiny cabs are also to be sealed and keyholes covered.

It has become a joke among dagga smokers to take over the front carriages to blow smoke through keyholes. Chris de Vos, who is general secretary of the mainly white 8,000-strong South African Footplate Association, said yesterday.

Both the association and Metrorail, which runs rail commuter services between townships and the country's main centres, said that the situation was most serious in KwaZulu/Natal province, where most dagga is grown.

"Last week one of our drivers was forced to stop his train for 50 minutes at Cato Ridge (near Durban) because he was getting high on the dagga fumes," Mr de Vos said. "The problem has been getting steadily worse for the past three years, particularly in the Durban area and, to a lesser extent, in the Cape Town and Johannesburg regions."

The association has now advised all its members to stop their trains if they start to feel woozy. "Of course, the commuters become angry when they are made late for work, but it is better than a driver carrying on and having an accident," Mr de Vos said. "We're playing with lives and we are sick and tired of it."



## Archbishop chosen to fight evil of crime

Tegucigalpa, Honduras: The National Legislature has appointed the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Honduras as chief of the newly formed National Police.

The vote was 126-2 in favour of Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, who is also president of the Latin American conference of bishops. One opposition legislator and one member of the ruling Liberal Party

voted against. Mgr Rodriguez was not immediately available for comment. Normally, the Vatican prohibits clergymen from holding government jobs without special dispensation.

The MP's decision was part of an effort to overhaul law enforcement in the Central American nation of 5.7 million people, to make it more professional and take it away from the military and place it

under civilian authority. For the past 33 years the current 6,000-member police force has been part of the military which ruled Honduras for 17 years until 1981, when it relinquished power in favour of elected civilians.

Crime has been increasing for at least the past six years and the police have been increasingly criticised for not being able to cope with it. (AP)

## Punk designer's vestments enliven Pope's Paris trip

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A FASHION designer who dresses punk groups and rock stars has created couture vestments for the Pope for his visit to Paris from today until Sunday.

Jean-Charles Castelbajac, former style guru of The Sex Pistols and The New York Dolls, and who has dressed Elton John, has also designed rainbow-coloured chasubles for the 5,000 priests and 500 bishops who will officiate at the 12th Festival of Youth.

While the Pope is often accused by critics of being too conservative in his theological approach, the same cannot be

said of his fashion sense: the 77-year-old pontiff has a penchant for wearing white Doc Marten boots beneath his cassock. During the Paris trip, the Pope will wear M de Castelbajac's creation in immaculate white covered in white embroidery with a few touches of colour by master French embroiderer, Lesage.

The priests will wear white chasubles emblazoned with a vivid stripe of colour in either red, yellow, orange, green or blue — each representing one of the five continents. When the priests are assembled, M de Castelbajac explained, a

rainbow effect will be created. Those administering Holy Communion will also carry azure blue umbrellas decorated with a dove of peace.

For the ten faithful who will be baptised by the Pope during an open air Mass at the Champ de Mars near the Eiffel Tower, M de Castelbajac has created a reversible cape. One side is sombre and the other white, which he says symbolises the passage from darkness to light.

For the 500,000 young people from 50 countries who are expected to attend the festival, the designer has

come up with brightly coloured T-shirts, baseball caps and bandannas.

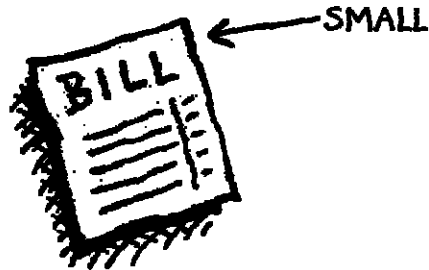
M de Castelbajac agreed to design the holy robes without charge after being approached by French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger on behalf of the Vatican. The designer accepted without hesitation.

This is not the first time the Pope has worn designer robes. Last Easter he was seen in the work of Gai Mattiolo, a Roman designer known as "the new Valentino" who dresses Nicole Kidman and Daryl Hannah.

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July 15 1997

# Tourist in icy plunge to save Rome fountain

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY reacted with national outrage yesterday after an attack by three unemployed Romans on Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona in the heart of the capital. A young tourist from Northern Ireland who dived into the icy waters of the fountain to rescue the damaged pieces was hailed as a hero.

The media treated the incident as a major act of terrorism, condemning "a mindless act of vandalism", and the news led all television bulletins. There were calls for heavier fines and jail sentences for damage to the nation's artistic heritage.

Professor Federico Zeri, a leading art expert, said that it was time the army was called in "to protect the country's heritage".

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, said: "Enough is enough. From now on we must severely punish anyone who fails to respect our unique cultural heritage".

The damage happened when three unemployed men, aged between 33 and 43 -- all from Rome, and all with petty

criminal records -- clambered into the fountain. One tried to climb up the statue, breaking off the tail of a sea monster between the figures representing the Ganges and the Danube. It fell into the water in three pieces.

When onlookers called the



Bernini: Baroque master

police, two of the men climbed out and ran off, but the third was arrested. The other two, identified because of their wet clothes, were caught shortly afterwards. They go on trial tomorrow. Their defence lawyer said they would claim they

had been trying to cool off, and the damage had been accidental.

Il Messaggero said that police were reluctant to climb into the fountain because they did not want to get their uniforms wet. They asked Ciaran Shevlin, 17, from Augher in Co Tyrone, who was wearing a T-shirt, cycling shorts and sandals. One of the officers helped him to climb into the basin of the fountain, where the water is waist deep, and, to applause from the crowd, Mr Shevlin submerged himself three times to bring up the pieces.

"I didn't need asking twice," Mr Shevlin said. "We Irish are happy when we can be of service. The pieces were heavier than I expected and the water was very, very cold. But I didn't mind."

An Italian passer-by bought him a blue Italian national football shirt from a street vendor. Mr Shevlin, a Roman Catholic, is a member of a mixed group of Protestants and Catholics staying at Lanuvio, near Rome, as part of a European Union town twinning programme.



Ciaran Shevlin leaves the Fountain of the Four Rivers after rescuing the tail. The fountain, unveiled in 1651, was dedicated to Pope Innocent X

The marble fountain, with an Egyptian obelisk in the centre, is the only one designed in its entirety by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, the Baroque sculptor. It was unveiled in 1651 and was dedicated to Pope Innocent X, its massive

allegorical figures represent the Nile, the Plate, the Danube and the Ganges rivers.

According to legend, the figure representing the Nile has its face covered so that it cannot see the facade of the church of Sant' Agnese, de-

signed by Bernini's rival Francesco Borromini. Equally, the figure representing the River Plate is raising its hand, as if to stop the church falling down. Alas, neither myth can be true: the church was begun a year after the fountain was

completed. The true explanation is that the Nile's face is covered and the River Plate's hand is raised to shield its eyes because the sources of both rivers were unknown.

The damage to Bernini's fountain comes after a series

of assaults on priceless Italian sculptures and works of art of world importance, including an attack by a deranged Hungarian who believed he was Jesus Christ on Michelangelo's Pietà in St Peter's Basilica in 1972.

## Australia used to 'dump' ex-Nazi

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

JEWISH groups fiercely condemned the Australian Government yesterday for allowing Konrad Kales, an alleged Nazi war criminal, back into the country. They claimed Australia was being turned into a "dumping ground" for war criminals.

Mr Kales, 83, who became a citizen of Australia after the war, arrived here a free man yesterday having been deported from Canada. An immigration adjudicator had ruled that he had helped to run a slave labour camp in Nazi-occupied Latvia during the Second World War in which prisoners were starved, tortured and murdered.

He was deported from America to Australia three years ago but fled to Canada after the release of secret files on his alleged wartime activities.

Diane Shteinman, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, yesterday called for a change in Australian deportation laws, saying:

"We are really aghast that a person who is not fit for the US or Canada can come back to Australia with impunity. If the Government does not open the case it would make Australia, in the view of the world, as a dumping ground for war criminals. The fault is with our laws."

Mark Liebler, a spokesman for the Australian Jewish Affairs Council, added: "He's been thrown out of the US; he's been thrown out of Canada and it's quite clear that he ought to be deported from Australia."

Mr Kales has always denied the allegations, maintaining that he was a university student during the war.

□ Bonn: The German Government and Jewish community representatives agreed yesterday to set up a special commission which has three months to examine how to deal with reparations claims from east European Holocaust victims. (Reuters)

## 'Blood' defaces statue

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

A CONTROVERSIAL statue in Quebec City of General Charles de Gaulle, the late French leader, has been defaced in red paint. The damage, discovered on Tuesday morning, cost about \$300 to repair.

Two notes in French were left by the statue. One referred to the 1942 Second World War battle in which more than 900 French-speaking Canadians died, saying: "Canadian blood at Dieppe."

The statue, unveiled less than a month ago by the separatist government in Quebec province, has attracted repeated attacks from federalists.

De Gaulle, who died in 1970, led the French resistance from England during the war and in 1958 became President of France's Fifth Republic. During Canada's centennial he shouted "Vive le Quebec libre" from a Montreal city hall balcony.

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# Libel case 'used for Singapore political attack'

FROM CHRIS JOHNSON IN SINGAPORE

BEN JEYARETNAM, the veteran opposition leader, yesterday accused Singapore's leaders of trying to drive him out of parliament by pursuing several libel cases against him.

Mr Jeyaretnam, 71, agreed that he told an election rally that a Workers' Party (WP) colleague had filed police reports against Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, and other members of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP). But he told the High Court, under questioning from his barrister George Carman, QC, that he had no detailed knowledge of what was in the reports, which accused Mr Goh, Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister, and nine other PAP leaders of criminal conspiracy and lying.

The 11 are suing Mr Jeyaretnam, saying his announcement of the police reports amounted to defamation by innuendo because everyone knew what the reports would say after a widely publicised war of words.

The trial, planned to last 12 days, is being monitored by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists and by Amnesty International, which says it is worried Singapore may be using the courts

to suppress opposition. Mr Goh denied on Tuesday that the defamation actions were intended to bankrupt Mr Jeyaretnam and thus bar him from parliament. The actions stemmed from December's general election campaign which resulted in the PAP winning 81 of parliament's 83 seats.

In the campaign, the PAP

**"I announced that Tang had just placed before me reports he made to the police. That is all."**

focused all its heavy weaponry on Tang Liang Hong, a WP candidate, accusing him of being an "anti-Christian, Chinese chauvinist" who endangered racial harmony in mainly ethnic Chinese Singapore, which has large Malay and Indian minorities.

Mr Tang filed police reports accusing PAP leaders of lying and criminal conspiracy and Mr Jeyaretnam announced that move at the last rally before voting on January 2.

Mr Goh and his colleagues sued Mr Tang, who fled abroad saying his life had been threatened. He did not return to defend himself and the PAP leaders were awarded a record \$8.08 million (£3.5 million) in damages.

They also sued Mr Jeyaretnam, who is an MP by virtue of a constitutional provision requiring at least three opposition members.

"The case against Tang and me is purely political," Mr Jeyaretnam told Tom Shields, QC, Mr Goh's barrister.

"What I announced was that Tang Liang Hong had just placed before me reports that he had made to the police. That is all. I doubt very much that the ordinary layman in Singapore would understand from that, that he [Mr Tang] is reporting them for criminal conspiracy and defamation."

Mr Shields suggested that Mr Jeyaretnam knew "full well the inference was that they were lying". The opposition politician replied: "I really didn't think about it."

He added that Mr Tang had simply placed copies of the police reports on the rally podium and asked him to announce that they had been made. (Reuters)

## Answering back can cost

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN SINGAPORE

"NOBODY fishes in the local lakes any more because now even the fish don't open their mouths," the driver said on the way to the High Court in Singapore. He was describing the atmosphere as Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, faced a grilling from George Carman, QC, in the extraordinary libel case against the leader of the Opposition.

At the centre of the case is the Workers' Party leader, J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, who is being prosecuted for the innu-

endo of waving a police report in front of an election meeting and saying that Mr Goh had been reported to the police.

The report filed by a political candidate, Tang Liang Hong, was an answer to mudslinging by the Prime Minister, who had accused him of being a Chinese chauvinist and anti-Christian and therefore likely to disrupt Singapore's racial balance, even though Mr Tang has studied Indian dancing and his daughter is a Christian.

But under Singapore's "meritocracy", to answer back the head of government can be

a costly experience. Mr Goh has already been awarded \$600,000 (£260,860) in an earlier libel action against Mr Tang. Eleven other government politicians shared the rest of an \$8 million award between them.

Singapore boasts the highest standard of living in the region. There are jobs to go round. The state is sparkling clean. The quality of life, however, is a different matter. A poll published in Singapore last week indicated that at least 37 per cent of adults had contemplated or were contemplating emigrating.



**AHMED SHAH MASOOD**, the Tajik leader of the Northern Alliance opposed to the fundamentalist Taliban militia, sharing a private moment with his eight-year-old son Ahmed yesterday. His senior aides have described his "unshakeable conviction" that he will take the city of Kabul (Michael Dynes writes).

Even in May when the Taliban zealots broke through the Salang highway

## Tajik leader 'unshakeably convinced' he will take Kabul

to enter the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and all seemed lost. General Masood was preparing to take his battle to the hills of his native Panjshir valley.

Dr Abdulla, General

Masood's personal spokesman, said. "He has an unshakeable conviction in his cause. It is because of him Afghanistan is still here as an independent country."

General Masood, 44, often

returns to his home in the Panjshir Valley to be with his wife, son and four daughters. He has seen his country torn to shreds as a result of 18 years of war provoked by the Soviet invasion in 1979, and

bitter in-fighting between the various Mujahidin factions between 1992 and 1994, and now an invasion by religious fundamentalists.

The general's senior military aides yesterday downplayed the decision to delay the final offensive against Kabul until next month. Despite growing pressure, General Masood will not be pushed into any precipitate military action.

## Woman in line for top China job

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA may appoint a woman as Foreign Minister in a looming leadership shuffle that will give President Jiang Zemin his toughest problem: finding a "meaningful" job for Li Peng, the country's unpopular Prime Minister.

The prospect of the witty, outgoing and acerbic Mrs Wu Yi, 58, taking the senior foreign position is the most intriguing possibility that could emerge from the leadership reshuffle.

The changes will take place at next month's party congress. Mrs Wu, now Foreign Trade Minister, is tipped to succeed Qian Qichen, 69, the Foreign Minister, who is retiring. She is also likely to gain a seat on the powerful party Politburo. She would be a fitting match for Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. Ms Albright is of similar age to the small, plump-but-bustling Mrs Wu.

As the fifteenth congress draws near, Beijing citizens are speculating about the future of the Prime Minister

and about the leaders who will take China into the next century. Mr Li must retire from the premiership next March after two five-year terms. "Li wants a job with power and it is difficult to find him one without displacing another leader or even whittling at Jiang's own power base," a foreign diplomat said. A complicating factor for Mr Jiang, 71 — he is party chief, President and top army leader — is that he has yet to consolidate his own role as Deng Xiaoping's successor.

Diplomats say it is a "virtu-

al certainty" that Zhu Rongji, 69, the Deputy Prime Minister who is China's "economic tsar", will replace Mr Li next March.

Mr Li, 68, remains deeply unpopular because he signed the martial law order that sent the People's Liberation Army into Tiananmen Square in June 1989 to suppress democracy demonstrations.

He may take over from Qiao Shi, 72, as chairman of the National People's Congress, but the former security chief is determined to hang on for another term.



Wu would prove a match for Albright

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# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patricia Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

### Shell in talks to acquire Gulf outlets

By Eric Renshaw

THE restructuring of the petrol market was set to continue last night when Shell UK confirmed it was in negotiations to buy the retail operations of Gulf UK, which are owned by Chevron.

Shell is also negotiating to buy Gulf's commercial fuels and lubricants business, but not its refinery at Milford Haven nor the head office in Cheltenham. Shorn of its retail arm, Gulf is expected to close the refinery.

Oil experts said the deal would give Shell nearly as much market share as Esso and put it well ahead of BP, which took control of Mobil's retailing businesses in the UK and in continental Europe last year.

Gulf has 450 retail sites, which would give the combined network 2,250 outlets. The Gulf stations would be rebranded as Shell and some weaker outlets would be shed, Shell said.

It added that the Gulf acquisition, which it hopes to complete by the end of the year, would significantly increase its market share. The company said that many of the Gulf sites were in better locations than the Shell outlets. The 16 Gulf stations bought by Shell in 1995 are among the company's best performers, it said.

The value of the 450 Gulf stations is difficult to estimate because their sales are not known. The price war, however, has eroded margins and depressed values.

Esso, which introduced the highly successful Price Watch campaign, is considered the most aggressive petrol retailer. The price war has resulted in the closure of about 10 per cent of stations in the past year or so.

The Shell-Gulf talks come as little surprise. Earlier this year, Chevron put its Gulf stations on the auction block after a proposed three-way merger with the refining and retail operations of Elf UK and Murco failed.

James Frost, chairman and chief executive of Seve Group (formerly the Frost Group), the largest independent petrol retailer, said the Shell-Gulf move would give the big three about 60 per cent of the retail market. Seve, with about 600 stations, has about 25 per cent.

Mr Frost welcomed the Shell-Gulf talks. He said: "The merger would mean that the remaining retailers will have a greater need to sell their products among a smaller number of retailers. We can only benefit from this development."

Shell's acquisition of the Gulf retail sites would require government approval.

By George Sivell and Robert Miller

RETAIL sales surged again in July, according to government figures out yesterday, although the rate of growth has slowed down since the boom month of June.

The July figures, swollen by spending windfall gains from mutual flotations, set a number of post-eighties records and had analysts talking of possible interest rate rises. However, both the Treasury and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, played down the inflationary impact of the figures.

In July the volume of retail sales rose 0.3 per cent from June, although the rise from May to June has been revised up from 0.6 per cent to 0.8 per cent. Government economists, however, regard the quarterly figures as a more reliable indicator of consumer trends.

In the three months from May to July retail sales rose 2.1 per cent on the previous quarter, the highest rise since October 1997's 2.2 per cent. The figures were 5.8 per cent up on the same quarter a year ago, the highest rise since September 1989's 6.1 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that it wanted to wait until the August figures before deciding whether the growth inspired by spending of windfall gains from building society and insurance mutual flotations had begun to slow down.

However, ONS statisticians estimate that an extra £200 million was spent on household goods and carpets in June and that an extra £100 million was spent in July. Stripping the combined £300 million out of the quarterly figures, the growth falls from a record-breaking 2.1 per cent to a more ordinary 1.4 per cent.

This calculation should help to reduce any upward pressure that emerges on interest rates, even though the Bank of England has effectively capped interest rates at 7 per cent for the time being.

Mr Robinson said: "We know that there's a lot of windfall money being paid out... so we budgeted for this, we expected it and the market also was expecting it, so I think,

really, it's a matter of looking at the whole year and then I think we are still on track."

Separate figures yesterday showed that consumer lending by British banks fell in July by just under £100 million. The British Bankers Association said that consumer credit rose £407 million in July, compared with £514 million in June and a six-monthly average of £479 million. Of the

total amount of credit extended to consumers £173 million was attributable to plastic cards.

Figures from the Building Societies Association showed a record monthly inflow of cash both from carporters and genuine savers. The remaining mutual societies attracted £1.85 billion in July, compared with £1.84 billion in June, compared with £1.84 billion in June.

Of more concern was the rise in the broad money supply, M4, of 0.8 per cent on the month and 11.8 per cent on the year. Analysts believe this figure represents a threat to the current low inflation environment and note that the Bank of England has moved the pace of M4 growth much higher up its agenda.

Commentary, page 25

Source: Datastream

WINDFALLS LAND IN THE HIGH STREET

Index of retail sales volume (1985=100)

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Source: Datastream

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1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997



By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Tempus, page 26



BY ANNE ASHWORTH

During the period, the Bradford & Bingley bought the £1.5 billion Mortgage Express loan book from Mortgage Express. The society said yesterday that it would securitise some £1 billion of it and sell it on to investors.

**BY ADAM JONES**

tween £153 million and £155 million for the year that ended in June, compared to £132 million the previous year.

**By Jason Nisse**

Date 18 August 1997  
 F G O'Hare, Official Recorder  
 Chaddesden House  
 77 Talbot Street  
 Nottingham, NG1 5GA

**By JON ASHWORTH**

[illegible]

**FAX: 0171-451 9313**  
 Applications and should be received by 2.30pm two days  
 prior to interview.

**By CHRIS AYRES**

Frost: very comfortable

million the previous year.

yesterday

0171-782 7344

## LEGAL NOTICES

BARNARD, ELLIS CLARA	0001
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BARNARD, LEO	0003
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born 25 March 1977	0006
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**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
**IN THE LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**COURT No. 45 of 1977**  
**RE WILLIAM PALCOS** (also known as William (Jack) Palcos) (debtor)  
played of 50 Woolsthorpe Road, Colchester, Mr. Gammam, since and lately residing at Primrose Hill, Colchester, Essex, SS1 7WJ, Winkfield, Devon and lately carrying on business as **REB Electrical Services**, 100 Colchester Road, Orton Colville, Peterborough.

On 4 July 1977 the above-named Court made a Bankruptcy Order against the above-named debtor.

**NOTE:—All debts due to the estate should be paid to me—F G O'Hare, Official Receiver, Chamberlain House, 77 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5QA.**

[illegible]

**ZOO LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the shares of the above-named company which is being wound-up are, required, on application to the Liquidator, to be sold by public auction on 19th of March 1937 and that the names and addresses with particulars of the shares held by the shareholders of the company are as follows:—  
J. H. Hall Street, Liverpool, L3  
The Liquidator, the said company, will go through the list in writing by the said Liquidator, or as permitted by their order, and will be satisfied that the shares will be sold at the best price that can be obtained for them and that the proceeds of the sale will be distributed to the shareholders in accordance with their rights.

**LIQUIDATOR**  
J. H. Hall Street, Liverpool, L3

[illegible]

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE 2

[illegible]

Thursday 18th September 1997  
to the Director at the above  
address.  
Douglas S. McEldown, Director  
General of Electricity Supply for  
Northern Ireland.

**PUBLIC, COMPANY  
MENTARY NOTICES**  
NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION  
PLEASE TELEPHONE  
0171-680 6876  
OR  
X: 0171-481 9313  
and should be received by 2.30pm two days  
prior to insertion.

**By CHR**

**HAYS**, the logistics and business services group, yesterday announced the acquisition of two logistics businesses in continental Europe from Mayne Nickless for a total of £93.4 million.

Hays bought FDS, based in France, and Van der Heijden, which operates in the Benelux region, for £717 million (£72 million). In addition, Hays will take on borrowing and finance leases of £213 million. Ronnie Frost, chairman, said: "What I would like to do is move all our commercial core activities to the Continent. In logistics you have to be European. Large retailers



**AYRES**

want to talk to someone who can move throughout Europe, not just Britain and France."

EOS has six million sq ft of warehouses in France, which Hays said would complement its existing logistics business, while van der Heijden has two million sq ft of warehouses in Holland and Belgium, which would complement Bijsterbosch, its Dutch distribution company.

The combined operating profit of the two businesses for the year ended July 6 was Fg7.5 million, on sales of Fr1 498 billion. Total net assets were Fg71 million. Hays said a substantial increase in profits was expected for the year to June 30, with the acquisitions set to enhance earnings in

Mr Frost predicted the newly-acquired businesses would add at least £5 million to pre-tax profits for 1997-98, and improve earnings per share by a minimum of 3 per cent. He also said that he was "very comfortable" with analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts of between £153 million and £155 million for the year that ended in June, compared to £132

## Armitage st

**MARKS & SPENCER** has called on the Government to cut fuel taxes on natural gas in a drive to stimulate more use of the fuel. The retailer is to replace some of its diesel-powered lorries with trucks powered by liquefied natural gas and wants the Government to cut the tax on the fuel from 21p to 10p per gallon to 10p.

Alan Price, BG's Distribution Services, Marks & Spencer has urged the government to bring the UK in line with other European countries. LNG is more environmentally friendly than diesel, with emissions from 25 natural gas vehicles equal to those from one diesel-powered vehicle. But, LNG trucks cost nearly 50 per cent

**ready**

the pet products group, sales growth to a general markets, which left pre-tax million in the year to June 1, 3.7p from 22.9p previously / at 250p as the company's annual dividend of 4.1p a share, 4p from 7.2p a year earlier.

	Days	Days
	Before	After
Australia	2.35	2.20
Austria	3.25	2.20
Belgium	2.40	2.10
Canada	27.74	2.10
Ceylon Ceylon	6.02	2.10
Denmark	11.62	1.15
France	5.55	1.15
Germany	3.11	1.15
Hong Kong	15.11	1.15
India	1.59	1.0
Indonesia	6.94	1.0
Japan	3.04	1.0
Malaysia	2.50	1.0
Netherlands	0.57	0.95
New Zealand	12.28	1.15
Peru	11.03	1.15
Sweden	2.25	0.95
Switzerland	2.57	0.95
USA	27.74	1.15

Notes for article cancellation: first  
 prices only; second by lastest  
 P.L.E. (see above)



# Kept in the dark over Anite



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Inside the Stock Exchange tower, teams of clever people labour on investigations. One can only wonder why, for they appear to find pitifully little that is incriminating and, even when they do turn up something nasty, the Exchange is loath to do anything about it.

This week, at the end of not one but two investigations into its affairs, a wet lettuce leaf was waited gently in the direction of Anite. Such a reaction is hardly likely to deter others from doing what the Exchange discovered this company had done, namely to have misled the stock market and, subsequently, compounded that offence by misleading a Stock Exchange inquiry.

There is to be no public censure of the company and the directors who were involved are free to continue providing their services to other companies. Rogers Llolland, for instance, now sits on the board of buses to guns conglomerate, Tomkins.

Investors should feel less than comfortable with the way they are kept in the dark.

Part of the problem lies with the inherent weakness in the Exchange's powers to punish, part with its preference for its culture of secrecy.

Public censure is a rarely used sanction — last deployed in June last year, when Clondalkin, the Irish packaging group, was reprimanded for a deficient and unapproved acquisition circular. More often, investigations con-

clude with private censures that leave no one any the wiser except the offending companies, their directors and advisers. With the Exchange tongue-tied because of the Financial Services Act, the significance of past misdemeanours is easily denied or played down, as Anite has so capably demonstrated.

As those who have been paying attention may recall, *The Times* believes the company, when it was still called Cray Electronics, seriously misled the stock market about the mounting losses within its data communications business. The Exchange had already carried out one investigation when fresh documents came to light, showing that those at the highest levels of the company had extensive knowledge of the problems months before the April 1995 profits warning, the start of a downward spiral which has since wiped out almost £300 million of shareholders' investments.

Prompted by the new evidence, the Exchange decided to take a second look, and found fresh fault with Anite — not least, that the company had withheld important information from the earlier inquiry. However, you

have only got our word for that. All Anite told its shareholders this week was that "The Stock Exchange has drawn certain matters to the company's attention." Investors can be forgiven for shrugging: so what?

But while the Stock Exchange feels it is unable to censure the directors who were involved because they are no longer with the company, a change of address would not normally shift culpability.

**Getting the measure of the boom**

Question: When is a boom not a boom? Answer: When the Government does not wish to see interest rates rise.

So the official line on yesterday's retail sales figures is that, despite showing the highest rate of growth since the heady days of the eighties spending

spree, this does not really count as a boom. What we have here is just consumers parting with some of their building society windfalls, but remaining careful about how they use their cash.

This analysis may be fairly accurate. I suspect that it is. The fact is that we do not know and the gratifying sight of rival economists producing very different instant reactions to the figures makes that perfectly clear.

The retail sales figures are, anyhow, prone to regular retrospective readjustments, so the numbers that were reeled off yesterday should be handled carefully by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. The Chancellor's hand-picked team of interest rate adjusters has already indicated that it will take a breather and allow the results of its recent endeavours to register before deciding whether another turn of the base rate screw is required.

What the MPC needs to establish was what the Office of National Statistics was yesterday trying to estimate: can the uplift in consumer spending be accounted for simply by windfalls or do people feel they can spend more of their earned income, encouraged by a growing feeling of job security which is beginning to show up in opinion polls. In either case, whether or not the politicians would prefer to avoid the term, the high street is clearly enjoying a boom. The question is whether it is to be a short-lived, but enjoyable, interlude or something more sustaining for the shops and their shareholders alike.

Anecdotal evidence from retailers is that there is not a change in the national spending psyche, and that the continuing price consciousness of customers will ensure that inflation does not let rip. They argue that the leap in clothing sales last month owes more to the vagaries of the weather than economics and that

the upsurge in household sales is a reflection of windfall spending.

The retailers are, of course, talking their own book in saying, when in earshot of the Bank, that this is a short-term spree that does not need quelling with another interest rate hike. The fact that most are whispering the same tale to analysts indicates that they believe it to be true.

**BAT ready to drive a hard bargain**

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, might have guessed he would encounter a few difficulties in his efforts to stop tobacco companies using sporting events to promote the evil weed. His ill-conceived tussle with the chaps at Camelot will hardly have prepared him for taking on the force of the international heavyweights.

They were not likely to simply accept a ban on sponsorship and now it seems that BAT is determined to buy itself a Formula One team to race around the grand prix tracks in the interests of encouraging people to smoke. Mr Smith may ban BAT from plastering the names of its cigarette brands around the

track or even plastering them on the sides of cars, but if the team races under the Lucky Strike label, what is the poor commentator to do?

People at BAT know a bit about advertising and sponsorship and the likelihood is that they have thought this issue through rather more than the unfortunate Mr Smith.

If he curtails their promotional opportunities in one direction, they will seek others, and investing £250 million on buying a top-flight racing team may look like a bargain given the international coverage that grand prix racing now collects. In fact, it is BAT's sales drive in the Third World that is likely to be the biggest beneficiary of its arrival behind the Formula One wheel.

But putting the sanctimonious Mr Smith on the spot will be a delightful bonus, to be savoured over a relaxing smoke.

**Corporate coolness**

SOME companies still fail to be covered by the corporate governors. Wintrust Securities, a tiddler in the banking sector, boasts a refreshing dearth of remuneration and audit committees, perhaps because it has not a single non-executive director to sit upon them. This does not deter such proper investors as Prudential and M&G from holding chunks of the stock. Perhaps they like the company's profit record rather than its pronouncements.

## Rentokil wrings bigger profits from BET takeover

By PAUL DURMAN

RENTOKIL Initial, the cleaning and pest control group, said yesterday its latest results showed how it could wring bigger profits from the businesses acquired in last year's £2.2 billion takeover of BET.

The group's half-year pre-tax profits of £193.9 million were a 44.2 per cent improvement on the previous period, which included only two months from Initial and the other BET businesses. This enabled Rentokil Initial again to hit its target of 20 per cent earnings growth, despite profits being cut by £14.3 million by the strength of sterling. Earnings per share rose 20.3 per cent to 4.74p.

Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, pointed to the per-

formance of the personnel services division, which largely consists of BET's recruitment agencies, for "what Rentokil's management can do to BET's businesses".

Turnover in personnel services grew by 177 per cent to £161.3 million, but profits grew much faster, by 432 per cent to £11.7 million. Sir Clive said this had been achieved by concentrating on more profitable sectors and regions. He said there were good opportunities for further margin improvements.

Sir Clive said the group had now put in place the management team for its enlarged business and had not been distracted by the integration problems that damaged the

last set of results. Without the impact from the strong pound, Rentokil Initial would have achieved earnings growth of 28.4 per cent.

The results were well received in the City, and the group's shares rose 3p to 217.5p.

Sir Clive said he expected about 30,000 of the group's 80,000 UK employees to be directly or indirectly affected by the Government's planned minimum wage legislation. He expects to be able to pass most extra costs to customers.

Sir Clive again set out his 20 per cent target, pointing to the group's scope to continue its record by expanding expansion in continental Europe and South-East Asia. He said: "In theory we have the opportunity to grow by that amount for 50 years. It depends on competition, innovation and economic cycles. If the target is as difficult now as it was 15 years ago, ten years ago, or five years ago, it was always hard."

Hygiene and cleaning is now the group's biggest business, increasing profits by 47 per cent to £81.4 million on sales of £416.5 million. The original pest control business, which suffered a fall in profits in the UK last year, reported a 7 per cent fall in profits to £33.1 million.

Sir Clive said the 20.3 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 0.89p a share, to be paid on November 6, indicated the board's continuing confidence.

Tempus, page 26



Roy Bishko, chairman, is expecting a good profits contribution from Knot Shops

## Tie Rack acquires US rival

TIE RACK, the retailer of ties, scarves and accessories, has acquired a smaller American rival, the Knot Shops, for \$2.5 million (£1.6 million) cash (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The Knot Shop has 21 stores in 12 states in the US, including two airport stores. They

will continue to trade under their own name. Tie Rack already has 39 stores in the US, part of its worldwide chain of 440 stores in 28 countries. No warehouse, central office or executive staff have been taken over. The Knot Shops will be serviced,

along with the group's other overseas operations, from Tie Rack's central distribution facility in West London.

Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie Rack, said: "I expect a good contribution to profits, without significantly adding to our overhead."

## City is surprised by pump-driven success at Weir

By MARK COURT

WEIR GROUP, the pumps, valves and engineering services company, far exceeded City expectations yesterday by revealing a 44 per cent increase in interim profits.

Viscount Weir, chairman, attacked the City for prompting undue fears about the impact of sterling on the company as he announced interim pre-tax profits of £27.8 million, compared with £19.2 million last time. He said: "The market ought to be more selective, more professional and make a deeper analysis of whether a business really is affected or not."

The pumps business was the star performer in the first six months, benefiting from a long-awaited upturn in demand and rising margins. Paul Compton, analyst at broker Merrill Lynch, said: "After five years of difficulty in the world pump market, the cycle has finally turned. Pump de-

mand will be very strong for the next three years."

Analysts, who are now upgrading their 1997 forecasts, also expect strong growth in the company's valves and engineering services businesses. Merrill Lynch expects full-year profits of £60 million, against £48.8 million last year.

Orders worth £345 million were won during the first six months, up by 21 per cent on the same period a year ago. These should help to lift turnover, which remained almost static at £318 million (£314 million), increasing pressure on the company to use its cash pile on acquisitions.

Although the company is likely to make two small purchases in the second half, in the UK and Brazil, Lord Weir said: "We are a bit put off by people asking prices that we think are rather high."

An interim dividend of 2.54p is due on 10 November.

## Wassall's US disposal fuels bid speculation

By ERIC REGULY

SPECULATION that Wassall, the bottle tops to glue conglomerate, is close to making an acquisition increased yesterday after the company sold its remaining 19.5 per cent stake in General Cable for \$143 million (£90 million).

Wassall sold the shares in the American cable manufacturer at \$31 each. This raises its total proceeds from various General Cable disposals, including the amount from the initial public offering, to \$763 million. Wassall said that the

money would be invested in existing businesses and "other suitable opportunities", but would not elaborate.

The General Cable sale increases Wassall's cash pile to more than £300 million. Analysts think that Wassall is likely to make acquisitions that would enlarge its existing businesses. The company holds stakes in McBride, the maker of household and personal care products, and TLG, the commercial and industrial fighting group.

## BG heading for pricing clash with watchdog

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A POTENTIAL legal clash between BG and Ofgas loomed yesterday after the company submitted its latest demands in the battle over Transco's pricing proposals. It is also keeping a close eye on another regulatory legal clash.

BG and Ofgas are at odds over a revenue cap proposed by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, when she sets out licence amendments to implement a Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendation on pricing curbs for BG's pipeline network.

BG has agreed to the MMC ruling, which could deliver bill cuts of £29 per year, but argues that a cap on all revenues is not what the MMC intended.



Spottiswoode: cap plan

A spokeswoman said that BG was "watching developments with interest" in the case of Northern Ireland Electricity, which has gone for a judicial review after its regulator ignored some of an MMC recommendation in pricing plans.

The NIE clash is seen as a test case. BG said that it was working with Ofgas to implement the exact measures of the MMC but would "review that position if the need arose".

Ofgas is keen to put a cap on all revenues of Transco rather than a proportion, as was outlined in the MMC recommendation, because the amount of gas running through the pipes could vary more profits. A spokeswoman said that a decision on the revenue cap would be made by early next month.

Meanwhile, City speculation is increasing that BG could mount a £1 billion share buyback when its interim figures are published next month. Simon Flowers, gas analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "The company could return up to £1.25 billion to shareholders quite easily."

BG would not comment on the expectations although the company has held a series of meetings with analysts recently.

## American group defends former Capital director

By DOMINIC WALSH

OGDEN CORPORATION, the US entertainment group, has spoken out in defence of Kenneth Thompson, the former Capital Corporation director accused of conspiring to harm the gaming group.

In a writ issued on Tuesday, Capital alleged that Mr Thompson had acted for Ogden in connection with a proposed deal to acquire London's Cromwell Mint casino at the same time that Capital was trying to acquire it.

But Chris Raphael, the British-born head of Ogden's casino division, said yesterday: "I don't know of a more proper person than Kenneth. He's old-

fashioned and completely straightforward in his approach and totally aware of his responsibilities."

Mr Raphael, who ran London's Claremont Club for Playboy in the Seventies, admitted Ogden had contacted Mr Thompson after it became aware he had resigned from Capital's board. But the discussions had never progressed beyond the informal stage.

He also confirmed that Ogden had approached Capital offering to take on the management of its two London clubs, Crockfords and the Colony Club. "We had read

about the management problems at Capital and we felt we could put together a pretty good team, but it never reached that stage."

The failure of Alan Hearn and Garry Nesbit, respectively chief executive and former chairman of Capital, to inform the board of Ogden's initial approach last November is just one of a series of allegations made against Capital's management. Those allegations prompted Capital to issue a writ claiming damages against Mr Thompson, Des Pereira, former acting head of finance, and Guy Hutchinson, former head of purchasing.

## Ronnie helps Vimto to a purple patch

By DOMINIC WALSH

PURPLE RONNIE, the cartoon character behind Vimto's £1 million summer advertising campaign, is putting a smile on the face of JN Nichols, the Manchester manufacturer of the fruit cordial.

The company, whose catchline is "Vimto puts a smile on your face", yesterday reported a 10.2 per cent rise

in pre-tax profits in the first half of 1997 to £4.2 million on turnover up from £35.4 million to £36.1 million.

Although volumes in June came in 20 per cent below budget due to the wet weather, the subsequent heatwave, aided by Purple Ronnie, should see the company achieve analysts' full-year profit forecasts of around £10.5 million.

John Nichols, managing director, whose grandfather invented Vimto in

1908, said around half the 200 million litres of the cordial sold annually were now consumed abroad, notably in Russia and the Middle East, where the company supplies concentrate to local franchisees. This had helped to offset a reduction in demand as a result of the reduction of sterling.

He said the company, which also runs contract packaging and food supply businesses, was even seeing an

improvement in the South of England, which has traditionally proved a tough nut to crack. "Part of the success is the result of increased distribution, in particular through corner shops and garage forecourts," he said.

Earnings per share, helped by a share buyback programme, rose from 6.44p to 7.45p, while the interim dividend, payable on October 27, has been raised by 10.2 per cent to 2.7p.

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## STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

## Regulator's ruling lights up the electricity sector

THE electricity sector switched into gains as the generators led the way among the FTSE 100 top performers. Kinder than expected proposals on price cuts from the electricity regulator helped PowerGen to jump 35p to 701.2p, a rise of nearly 5 per cent, while National Power moved up 23p to 539.1p. The generators were also lifted by the absence of a price cap on the pool price, though the way in which pool prices are set remains under review.

Among the distributors ScottishPower put up 11p to 431.2p, while Southern Electric added 5p to 461p.

The focus on the electricity sector provided some substantial support for a market thin on volumes and inspiring news.

Shares followed a more confident track, helped once again by Wall Street's overnight lead and later its firm opening. A raft of data, including retail sales and bank lending, made little impact on sentiment, said traders.

At the close the FTSE 100 was 4,988.4, a few points below its peak. Volumes remained modest at 675 million.

Exporters were squeezed by concerns over the strength of sterling. GKN lost 45p to 511.92p and Siebe was off 28p to 106.96p. A broker's sell recommendation also hit Tomkins, which retreated 10p to 317.1p, while TI Group fell back 10.5p to 581.1p.

BTR was once again busy, with over 25 million shares traded, though the price retreated after its recent rise on the back of disposal speculation, and ended 8.1p lower at 219p after profit-taking.

Oil stocks were in demand, with BP continuing to rise in the wake of a large discovery off the Angolan coast. BP has a 16.67 per cent stake in the Dalia field. BP yesterday rose 34p to 893p. Shell also moved ahead, adding 5p to 435.1p after recent broker upgrades. Burmah Castrol ended 18.1p higher at 10.87p.

Cairn Energy put on 17p before easing back to end 8p at 531.1p, while Premier Oil rose 2.5p to 46.1p.

JXK Oil & Gas was unchanged at 42.1p despite talk of moves to block its agreed bid from Ramco by Ukr-Gazprom, the Ukrainian state owned operator of oil. BG rose 5p to 259p as speculation continued that a large-scale



John Chesworth, of Bodycote, 35p on strong results

buyback will be announced when the group reports interim results early next month. The shares previously peaked at 261p.

Among retailers Dixons were helped 17.1p higher to 639p by a buy recommendation from Salomon Brothers, which is setting a target price of 665p. The brokers also like the look of Kingfisher, pencilling in a target price of 775p.

The shares rose 7.1p to 742p. Other stores had a mixed day in the wake of the retail sales figures. Next fell back 12p to 772.1p after recent gains, while Oasis benefited from a strong buy recommendation from SGST, its house broker, and moved up 7p to 265.1p.

Retail analyst Nick Bubb at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull recommends a switch to Oasis from Laura

Ashley, flagging up the strength of Oasis autumn range. Laura Ashley put on 2p to 57.1p.

Sports goods retailers took a tumble on news that Tesco plans to sell Adidas branded goods at low prices. Blacks Leisure fell 12.1p to 412.1p, while JJB Sports fell to 460p before closing off a penny at 472.1p. Tesco rose 2p to 418.1p.

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formed the market for the first half of the year, has fallen below the FTSE since the MCI profit warning hit BT shares. BT accounts for about 70 per cent of the sector. Although analysts expect the MCI deal to go through, James McCafferty, of Hoare Govett, says that the outlook for the sector will remain broadly neutral until the benefits of the link-up begin to be seen.

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SDAY AUGUST

# Shares advance in dull trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>BANKS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>INSURANCE</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>MEDIA</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>MINING</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>PROPERTY</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>TRANSPORT</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>WATER</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0

1997	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>BANKS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>INSURANCE</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>MEDIA</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>MINING</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>PROPERTY</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>TRANSPORT</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>WATER</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0

1997	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
BANKS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
BREWERS, PUBS & REST								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
FOOD MANUFACTURERS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
HOUSEHOLD GOODS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
INSURANCE								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
INVESTMENT TRUSTS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
LEISURE & HOTELS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
MEDIA								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
MINING								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
OTHER FINANCIAL								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
PHARMACEUTICALS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
PRINTING & PAPER								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
PROPERTY								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
RETAILERS, FOOD								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
RETAILERS, GENERAL								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
SUPPORT SERVICES								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
TEXTILES & APPAREL								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT								
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0	0	0



# Have you chosen your fantasy team?

Code	Name	Team	Price
10401	Jim Leighton	Aberdeen	2.0
10402	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.0
10403	Mark Bosnich	Barnsley	1.0
10404	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
10405	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
10406	Kelvin Brannagan	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10407	Stewart Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10408	Ed de Gooijer	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10409	Steve Opton	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10410	Carlisle Nash	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10411	Kevin Miller	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10412	Mark Bosnich	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10413	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10414	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10415	Kelvin Brannagan	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10416	Stewart Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10417	Ed de Gooijer	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10418	Steve Opton	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10419	Carlisle Nash	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10420	Kevin Miller	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10421	Mark Bosnich	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10422	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10423	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10424	Kelvin Brannagan	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10425	Stewart Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10426	Ed de Gooijer	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10427	Steve Opton	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10428	Carlisle Nash	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10429	Kevin Miller	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10430	Mark Bosnich	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10431	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10432	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10433	Kelvin Brannagan	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10434	Stewart Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10435	Ed de Gooijer	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10436	Steve Opton	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10437	Carlisle Nash	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10438	Kevin Miller	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10439	Mark Bosnich	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10440	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10441	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10442	Kelvin Brannagan	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10443	Stewart Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10444	Ed de Gooijer	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10445	Steve Opton	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10446	Carlisle Nash	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10447	Kevin Miller	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10448	Mark Bosnich	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10449	David Watson	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
10450	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	4.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.0
20202	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	3.0
20203	Emmanuel Petit	Arsenal	3.0
20204	Steve Sinton	Arsenal	3.0
20205	Alan Wright	Arsenal	3.0
20206	Simon Grayson	Arsenal	3.0
20207	Ramond Nelson	Arsenal	3.0
20208	Nicky Eaden	Arsenal	3.0
20209	Neil Thompson	Arsenal	3.0
20210	Patrick Valley	Arsenal	3.0
20211	Neil Carr	Arsenal	3.0
20212	Robbie Elliott	Arsenal	3.0
20213	Tommy Boyd	Arsenal	3.0
20214	Tosh McKinlay	Arsenal	3.0
20215	Jackie Macleod	Arsenal	3.0
20216	Gravett Le Sueur	Arsenal	3.0
20217	Dan Petrescu	Arsenal	3.0
20218	Celestine Babayaro	Arsenal	3.0
20219	David Burrows	Arsenal	3.0
20220	Brian Borrows	Arsenal	3.0
20221	Marcus Hall	Arsenal	3.0
20222	Marc Edwards	Arsenal	3.0
20223	Kevin Yates	Arsenal	3.0
20224	Chris Powell	Arsenal	3.0
20225	Dean Yates	Arsenal	3.0
20226	Andy Hinchcliffe	Arsenal	3.0
20227	Mike Whitlow	Arsenal	3.0
20228	Steve Guppy	Arsenal	3.0
20229	Stig Inge Bjornebye	Arsenal	3.0
20230	Dennis Irwin	Arsenal	3.0
20231	Gary Neville	Arsenal	3.0
20232	Phil Neville	Arsenal	3.0
20233	Steve Watson	Arsenal	3.0
20234	Warren Barton	Arsenal	3.0
20235	John Breen	Arsenal	3.0
20236	Stuart Pearce	Arsenal	3.0
20237	Alan Cunniff	Arsenal	3.0
20238	Stella Stensness	Arsenal	3.0
20239	Patrick Blomfield	Arsenal	3.0
20240	Ian Nolan	Arsenal	3.0
20241	Jason Dodd	Arsenal	3.0
20242	Frankie Benal	Arsenal	3.0
20243	Simon Charlton	Arsenal	3.0
20244	Clive Wilson	Arsenal	3.0
20245	Justin Edinburgh	Arsenal	3.0
20246	John Dicks	Arsenal	3.0
20247	Andy Impey	Arsenal	3.0
20248	Ben Thatcher	Arsenal	3.0
20249	Kenny Cunningham	Arsenal	3.0
20250	Alan Kimble	Arsenal	3.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
30101	Brian O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.0
30102	Tony Adams	Aberdeen	2.0
30103	Marvin Koon	Aberdeen	2.0
30104	Giles Grimmond	Aberdeen	2.0
30105	Gareth Southgate	Aberdeen	2.0
30106	Ugo Ehiogu	Aberdeen	2.0
30107	Arjan de Zeeuw	Aberdeen	2.0
30108	Adrian Moses	Aberdeen	2.0
30109	Malik Murphy	Aberdeen	2.0
30110	Colin Hendry	Aberdeen	2.0
30111	Stephane Henchoz	Aberdeen	2.0
30112	Gerry Taggart	Aberdeen	2.0
30113	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30114	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30115	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30116	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30117	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30118	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30119	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30120	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30121	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30122	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30123	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30124	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30125	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30126	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30127	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30128	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30129	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0
30130	Gordon Strachan	Aberdeen	2.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
40101	Alan Thompson	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40102	Scott Selby	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40103	Per Fransson	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40104	Michael Johansson	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40105	James Pothol	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40106	Andreas Jonsson	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40107	Phil O'Donnell	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40108	Peter Grant	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40109	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40110	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40111	Dennis Wise	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40112	Eddie Newton	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40113	Gustavo Poyet	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40114	Gary McAllister	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40115	Tommy Egan	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40116	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40117	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40118	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40119	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40120	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40121	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40122	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40123	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40124	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40125	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40126	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40127	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40128	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40129	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
40130	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	3.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
50101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50111	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50112	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50113	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50114	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50115	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50116	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50117	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50118	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50119	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
50120	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
60101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60111	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60112	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60113	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60114	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60115	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60116	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60117	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60118	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60119	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
60120	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
70101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70111	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70112	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70113	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70114	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70115	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70116	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70117	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70118	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70119	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
70120	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
80101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80111	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80112	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80113	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80114	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80115	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80116	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80117	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80118	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80119	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
80120	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
90101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90111	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90112	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90113	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90114	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90115	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90116	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90117	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90118	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90119	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
90120	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
100101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100111	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100112	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100113	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100114	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100115	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100116	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100117	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100118	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100119	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
100120	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
110101	John Henshaw	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110102	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110103	John Snelton	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110104	Simon Rodger	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110105	Darren Fletcher	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110106	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110107	Adrian Lomax	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110108	Alison Armstrong	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110109	David Forster	Blackburn Rovers	1.5
110110	Chris Bailey	Blackburn Rovers	1.5



am?

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown concentrates like mad during David Lynch's *Lost Highway*, but still gets hopelessly lost

# Driving blind in the contraflow

Tired of Hollywood's summer silliness or films that make sense? Then welcome to *Lost Highway*. David Lynch's first feature in four years. He has not been idle: the brain that gave us *Blue Velvet* and *Twin Peaks* has now concocted an awesomely bizarre entertainment that would baffle even Albert Einstein. Time and space are bent out of shape; one character merges into another. Paranoia runs rampant. This is a hallucinogenic tale of murder, blackmail, amnesia, female entrapment and night-time rides down glistening tarmac, all wrapped in an audacious soundtrack.

The film's universe is so extreme, so brazen in refusing rational explanations, that audiences are faced with two choices. You can either hitch yourself to Lynch's wagon, and bask in the perverse delights devised by the director and Barry Gifford (author of the novel *Wild at Heart*). Or you can stand outside, alienated from a film that talks a private language. Since Lynch's control and pacing falter sometimes, a third option emerges: you can feel intrigued, then frustrated, briefly mesmerised, then faintly fed up, then bored. This is the path I took.

A plot outline would mislead, for the lines connecting cause and effect are impossibly skewed. Bill Pullman begins as a jazz musician in a city sprawl resembling Los Angeles. After numerous strange occurrences he is arrested for the murder of his wife, Patricia Arquette. One day, guards find another man in his prison cell, a younger man (Balthazar Getty), who, once released, starts an affair with another woman played by Arquette, this time sporting bleached hair.

Are these pairs alter egos? Does the action take place inside or outside the characters' heads? And who is the Mystery Man, the ghostly, insidious, lipsticked clown who demonstrates, among other phenomena, how to be in two places at once?

Lynch supplies no answers. He is only precise in the way he crafts the material of his film, the sounds and images. Decor is spare, but resonant (back come those red drapes from *Twin Peaks*: *Fire Walk With Me*). Performances are deliberately low key: no Oscars will be won here. The sound design is bold and intricate, a scrupulously engineered mix of David Bowie, Lou Reed, Smashing Pumpkins, continuous chords and apocalyptic drones.

Given the deluge of workday movies, Lynch's conceptual daring is as refreshing as always. But there is something so insular about *Lost Highway* that I came out gasping for even muggier air.

And so to Joely Richardson, riddling knobs, keys and buttons in a search-and-rescue

**Lost Highway**  
Curzon West End, 18,  
134 mins  
David Lynch baffles us to bits

**Event Horizon**  
Empire, 18, 95 mins  
Hell is discovered in outer space

**Albino Alligator**  
Virgin Haymarket, 18,  
97 mins  
Kevin Spacey turns director

**Jump the Gun**  
Virgin Haymarket, 15,  
112 mins  
Les Blair explores modern Johannesburg

**Keys to Tulsa**  
Plaza, 18, 113 mins  
One hip crime thriller, too many

**Plein Soleil**  
Curzon Phoenix, PG,  
118 mins  
Patricia Highsmith adapted by the French

space ship far into deep space in the year 2047. "I'm picking up trace life forms," she says, "but I can't get a lock on the location." There is a price to pay for securing a role in a science-fiction film, such as *Event Horizon*, wholly American in flavour although made by a British director at Pinewood. You have to declaim terrible dialogue. From time to time you must parade your physique in little more than a bra and pants. You get knocked around, pelted with debris, splattered with human remains.

Joely's character, Starck, the ship's navigator, is not alone in her struggle. I could not find life forms, either. True, Sam Neill begins the film gazing at family photos — "I miss you," he croons to his wife — but once the ship speeds off on its mission to investigate a vessel, missing, believed lost, for seven years in space, all human beings become subordinate to high-tech wizardry. Nobody is spared, not even Laurence Fishburne, the ship's seasoned captain, or Neill's ambiguous scientist, or Richardson in her scaldies.

Devotees of sci-fi extravaganzas can be assured plenty of spectacle. Bodies and hardware are exploded, fragmented and smeared on walls. The renegade ship, the *Event Horizon*, comes styled with Gothic armour-plating and an ominous large ball surrounded by three rotating rings. This gloom is crucial, we discover, this was the engine that allowed ship and crew to travel faster than light; disappear down an evil black hole, and return to spew out messages in Latin and personalised nightmares.

You could call the ship's destination hell. The characters do. The director Paul Anderson, he of *Shopping and*



Patricia Arquette in *Lost Highway*, David Lynch's "hallucinogenic tale of murder, blackmail, amnesia, female entrapment and night-time rides down glistening tarmac"

*Mortal Kombat*, even thought Ken Eisner's script reminded him of Dante's *Inferno*. But any benefit the film might enjoy from its supernatural and religious overtones is lost in the welter of bald dialogue, mundane plotting, thunderous music, ripped-out eyes and dripping gore.

Given sufficient money and equipment, it is easy to bombard the viewer with spectacle. The difficulties for movies these days lie in the low-tech arena. *Event Horizon* needs livelier direction and an interesting script, with characters that live and breathe.

In *Albino Alligator*, debutant director Kevin Spacey keeps the camera on the move, weaving between faces on the wide screen as we join the characters trapped in Dino's Last Chance Bar, a Prohibition-era watering hole that houses a battle between bungling robbers, customers taken hostage and federal agents laying siege. We might very well be watching a play,

possibly *Key Largo* or *The Desperate Hours*.

Aside from Spacey's forceful handling, there is a notable cast to keep us absorbed. M. Emmett Walsh, the bar owner, soon lies dead, but there are still Matt Dillon, Faye Dunaway, Gary Sinise and others to ponder moral niceties, act flustered, foolish or brave, and explain the film's title. It refers to a play in billiards, a sacrificial move made by one player that blocks the progress of others.

The fancy title indicates the pretensions of the script, a first endeavour by Christian Fortson of the 1930s pop star Fabian. He is lucky to have Spacey and crew interpreting his work, otherwise this old wine in a new bottle might have been far less drinkable.

Escaping from Dino's Last Chance Bar, we hop continents and reach post-apartheid Johannesburg in *Jumping the Gun*. South Africa is not Les Blair's usual territory: the accomplished

maker of semi-improvised dramas, too often hidden in Mike Leigh's shadow, has rarely strayed from the London enclaves of the working and middle-classes. Perhaps his status as a foreign visitor contributes to the film's lack of focus; you never feel a clear point of view as Blair follows the fortunes of a white oil rigger (Lionel Newton) and

a woman fleeing man trouble (Baby Cele). The boisterous playing is infectious, but the elongated running time grows to be a nuisance.

The minutes also pass heavily in *Keys to Tulsa*, yet another small American film arrayed with more talent than the material deserves. Eric Stoltz, James Spader, Michael Rooker and old-timers Mary

Tyler Moore and James Coburn are among those who signed on for Harley Peyton's script, but so much potential gets smothered by Leslie Greiff's plain direction. Time, too, is not on the film's side; we have seen too many crime melodramas peppered with losers, wastrels and hip dialogue for this pale specimen to appeal.

Finally, we reach *Plein Soleil*, in which a young Alain Delon bares his chest and assumes the identity of the rich friend he does away with. René Clément's film, made in 1959, is not taut enough, but Delon's prettiness, the light, bright colours of Henri Decae's camerawork and the period flavouring all bring their own small pleasures.

## NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Sparkling Rossini rarity; two generations of Bachs

### OPERA

John Higgins

■ **ROSSINI**  
*L'inganno felice*  
Massis/Gimenez/Gilbey/  
Regazzo/Spagnoli/Concert  
des Tuileries/Minkowski  
Erato 0630 1759-2 \*\*\* £15.49

ROSSINI'S fourth opera, *L'inganno felice* (*The Happy Deception*), is loosely described as a *farsa*. Rather it is a gentle melodrama about a noblewoman who, falsely accused of infidelity, is pushed out to sea in an empty boat. Years later all is happily resolved as husband and wife are reunited amid general forgiveness.

Marc Minkowski conducts his youngish cast with a beneficent smile, starting with the overture, the score's best known piece. Raul Gimenez, most expert of Rossini tenors, has a graceful entrance aria as the Duke, but then rather fades from sight. There are some dull patches of accompanied recitative unravelling the simplistic plot, but the last 30 minutes are pure joy. They start with a superb panto duet between one of the villains and Tarabotto, a nice

old miner who plucked the duchess from the ocean. Rodney Gilbey and Pietro Spagnoli play the bad guy and the good guy with relish. Best of all is Annick Massis, this summer's discovery in Glyndebourne's joyous *Le Comte Ory*, as the wronged duchess. Perhaps Glyndebourne should give *L'inganno* a whirl some day.

### ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **J.C. BACH**  
*Berlin Harpsichord*  
Concertos 2  
Hanover Band/Halstead  
cpo 999 462-2 \*\*\* £14.99

NOT content with his flourishing dual career as horn player and conductor, Anthony Halstead has also been displaying his prowess at the keyboard in recent years. He is currently in the process of recording all the orchestral music of Johann Christian Bach, and here he takes the role of solo harpsichordist in

three more of the concertos, directing also from the keyboard. Bach's youngest son, born in 1735, was to be a considerable influence on Mozart. But his early style is still firmly rooted in the Baroque, as can be heard in the set of concertos dating from his Berlin years (1750-54). They are attractive works, full of character and ideas, not to mention virtuosic passage-work — especially in Presto finales — which Halstead throws off with aplomb.

The *F Minor* Concerto has a particularly affecting slow movement, the nuances of which are captured expertly by both soloist and the dependable Hanover Band.

### RECITAL

Hilary Finch

■ **BACH**  
*Six Cello Suites*  
Jaap ter Linden  
Harmonia Mundi HMU  
907216.17 \*\*\* £28.99

THERE are as many character studies of Bach Suites as there are cellists to play them: a long catalogue reveals the huge heart of a Rostropovich, the volatility of a Maysky, the gentle cultiva-

tion of a Kirshbaum, the rigour of a Schiff. And now there is this, a new period instrument performance by the gambist and Baroque cellist Jaap ter Linden, whose Bergonzi and Amati instruments draw Bach mellow and matured out of old oak casks.

The opening of the First Suite in G creates no mere gentle undulation, but reveals a search for every shifting wave pattern. And in Linden's playing the foothill of dance has already turned into the patterning of thought. He makes up in rubato what his playing lacks in vibrato and, with some heavy landings on double-stopping, it can at times sound over-strenuous.

But the longer you listen, the more Linden's intellectual and physical energy takes you over. Stay with it, and you cannot fail to be entranced by the broad, sweeping lines of his Sarabande in the First Suite, the sense of levitation in the daring articulation of the Prelude of the Fifth, and the freefall of arpeggio figures in the Courante of the Third.

★ Worth hearing  
★★ Worth considering  
★★★ Worth buying

## Close, but no cigar

### NEW ON VIDEO

■ **101 DALMATIANS**  
*Buena Vista, U, 1996*  
GLENN CLOSE's Cruella De Vil, looking stunning in angular black-and-white fashions and piercing her lines as though they were gourmet delicacies, knocks spots off the dogs in this live-action edition of the cartoon classic. In other ways, the cartoon is better. You certainly miss the dogs' voices; denied their thoughts as they find their puppies kidnapped, we begin to stand outside the story. Available to rent.

■ **FLIRTING WITH DISASTER**  
*Buena Vista, PG, 1996*  
THE director of *Spanking the Monkey*, David O. Russell, is still obsessed with family matters. This second feature concerns a young man's cross-country search for his birth parents, accompanied by his wife, their baby, and an adoption agency bent on documenting the happy reunion. Surprises lurk at every turn, and the jokes tumble out with an ease indicating the cast's high spirits, improvisation skills, or both. Ben Stiller and Patricia Arquette play the questing couple; comedy veterans (Mary Tyler Moore, George Segal, Alan Alda and Lily Tomlin) fill out the cast. Available to rent.

■ **MARS ATTACKS!**  
*Warner, 12, 1996*  
THEY come in peace, or so they say. That's before the little green men reduce America's Congress to smoking skeletons. Tim Burton's film is no



Glenn Close, magnificent in monochrome, after the hair of the dog in the remake of the classic *101 Dalmatians*

ordinary spoof: big bucks, high technology, and galaxies of stars (Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close) have been lavished on the project. There is a savage tone that undercuts some fun: no 1950s aliens were ever as nasty as these invaders, and no 1950s movie ever burnt human beings with such gloating realism. A little more kindness and less blockbuster panache would have improved the experience, now yours to rent.

■ **THE WEDDING PARTY**  
*Allied Entertainment, U, 1993*  
ODDITY collectors may wish to acquire this juvenile, would-be comedy, made by Brian De Palma with college colleagues Cynthia Munroe and Wilford Leach. Bride, groom, friends and relatives gather and talk

before the big day, among them a chunky, crew-cutted Robert De Niro, cast as a friend of the groom. Jill Clayburgh, too, makes her screen debut.

■ **NORMAL LIFE**  
*First Independent, 18, 1995*  
THIS film by John McNaughton remorselessly follows the downward path of a rookie policeman (Luke Perry) and an unstable wife who loves astronomy and craves excitement. "Black holes are intense," Ashley Judd cries in a brave, unnerving performance. So is the film, which pushes us into our own black hole with two characters spinning out of control. Available to rent.

Geoff Brown

## SNAP VERDICT

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases

■ **EVENT HORIZON**  
Sarah Crook, 18. A very gruesome and disturbing movie that borders on being evil.  
■ **TIM THORNTON**, 21: A chilling and frightening film. Joely Richardson looks out of place, acting as if she is treading the boards at the Globe.  
■ **DAMIAN SAMUELS**, 20: *Alien* meets *Hellraiser* meets *Logan's Run*.  
■ **LESLIE ISAIAH THOMAS**, 19: Research tells us that violent films can cause violent behaviour. *Event Horizon* should inspire a few more psychopaths.

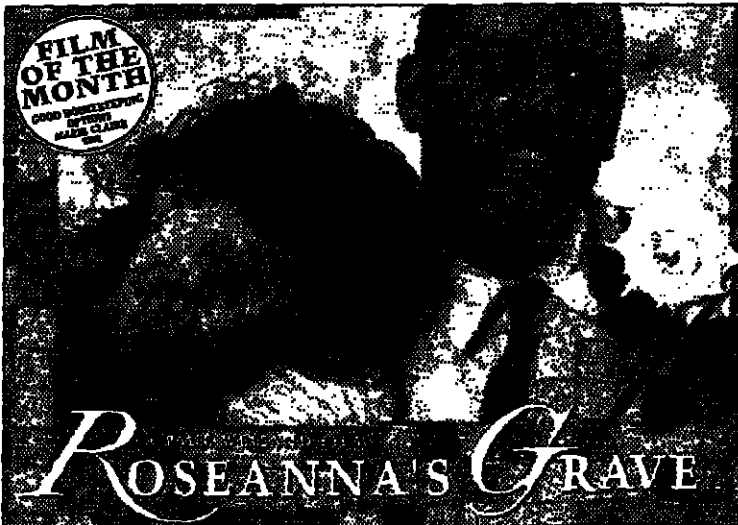
■ **JUMP THE GUN**  
Sarah: Thought-provoking. Tim: Neither boring nor badly acted, but I wouldn't recommend a special trip to the cinema. Wait for the video.  
■ **DAMIAN**: If you want to watch a film set in present-day South Africa, see *Dangerous Ground*, with Liz Hurley. It's far more entertaining.  
■ **LESLIE**: Interesting portrait of a country and its people.

■ **ALBINO ALLIGATORS**  
Sarah: A smart and sassy film. I loved it!  
■ **TIM**: A witty, well-acted gangster romp.  
■ **DAMIAN**: Like the peculiarly named *Reservoir Dogs*, *Albino Alligators* is a real hit, even though there isn't a single white-skinned reptile in sight.  
■ **LESLIE**: Kevin Spacey delivers a tense and intriguing movie.

"YOU'LL LOVE IT TO DEATH...MADE MY HEART ACHE, MY EYES WEEP AND MY BELLY LAUGH...WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK FROM A MOVIE?" ★★★★★ THE DAILY MIRROR

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NEW WOMAN



ROSEANNA'S GRAVE

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## EDINBURGH

The Galloway Festival season is a new venue at the International Festival featuring a string of young companies in an outdoor setting this evening. The season includes the evening of the British premiere of the new musical *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones. The evening will feature the new musical *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones. The evening will feature the new musical *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones.

The Fringe's diverse programme includes a wide range of music, comedy, and drama. The evening will feature the new musical *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones. The evening will feature the new musical *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones.

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

**ALBERT HALL** Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171 582 0210) Tonight, 7.30pm. **NEW NATIVE LAND** New Native Land play set in Benin East Africa at the start of the Second World War. A comedy of misadventure, with a strong African flavour. (0171 582 0210) Tonight, 7.30pm.

**ELMSLIE** **ALDEBURGH** Martin Little and the Red Hot Peppers, who last appeared in 1995. (0171 582 0210) Tonight, 7.30pm.

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at the Snape Proms in 1993, return for an evening of red hot jazz. With Paul Lacey, trumpet, Bob Hunt, trombone, Tony, clarinet, Jim Tomlinson, reeds, Martin Wheatley, guitar/bass, Graham Reed, bass, Nick Ward, drums. Snape Mallings Concert Hall (01728 435453) Tonight, 7.30pm.

**CHICHESTER** This year's Chichester Festival features a new production of *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones. The evening will feature the new musical *Shogun* by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under David Jones.

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## Shaw at his most unsure

That fine critic Max Beerbohm defended Shaw when others were deriding *John Bull's Other Island* as "not a play". But that was in 1905, when the great chatterbox still felt some obligation to construct a plot and sustain tension.

*Misalliance*, which followed five years later, struck Beerbohm as verbose and ill-organised. It was, he lamented, "about anything and everything that has happened to come into Mr Shaw's head. It

never progresses. It doesn't even revolve. It merely sprawls."

There are more sympathetic ways of looking at *Misalliance*. Getting married, and other such exercises in Edwardian farce. Another admirable if more academic critic, Eric Bentley, has argued that Shaw invented a new kind of play. Instead of wondering what will happen to the people onstage, we are asked to consider which of the ideas on offer will prove the most cogent. But I tend to side with Beerbohm, at least about *Misalliance*. For all the efforts of Frank Hutter's nicely excellent cast in deep Sussex, my toes seemed to twitch more than my brain cells ticked.

Yes, it is brave of Duncan Weldon to present so uncommercial a piece in Chichester. Yes, Saul Radomsky has designed a conservatory and veranda that evoke posh, flowery Surrey, and has added symbolism to the structure in the form of giant boots tiled



Misallied spirits: Natalia Makarova, Tony Britton, Joss Ackland, Harriet Wootliff

*Destiny, Science, Ideas* and so on. Yes, there are occasional funny lines. I too laughed when a Marxist clerk determined to avenge the death

of his impoverished mother, cried: "The writings on the wall. Rome fell. Babylon fell. Hindhead's turn will come." But what was so arbitrarily

conceived a character doing in the play in the first place? The house belongs to John Tarleton (genial Joss Ackland), a lingerie magnate given to

## Bucolic in parts

**BBC PROMS**  
**OAE/London Sinfonietta**  
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HAD it not said as much in David Harman's meticulous programme notes I would never have believed that Mendelssohn's cantata *Die erste Walpurgisnacht* was receiving its first Proms performance. It is hardly an unknown work these days, and I have lost count of the number of recordings. It was good to have it, though, in this Mendelssohn anniversary year, and good to have it too on the period instruments of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. I had expected the pagan music to emerge with a keener edge, especially under the direction of Mark Elder. But it was the light-footed scherzo *To your posts* that was the more convincing. A fervent peroration, however, from Thomas Hampson as the pagan priest, with fine contributions from Paul Charles Clarke, Neil Davies, Patricia Bardon and the Choir of the Enlightenment. The period instruments offered some

bucolic timbres in the Serenade of Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*. But this again seemed a disappointingly low-voltage account. Thomas Zehetmair's ultra-introspective way with the solo viola part made one realise why Paganini thought it was not for him.

It was less surprising that none of the five works heard at the late-evening concert had been given at a Prom before. These were all recent works: indeed, a showcase of British compositional talent. Not a dud among them, and here given sympathetic performances from the London Sinfonietta under Markus Stenz.

Simon Bainbridge's *Landscape and Memory* impressed deeply for its depiction of a frozen musical soundscape. The delicately shaded horn solo was provided by Michael Thompson. Oliver Knussen was represented by *Two Organs*, drawing on medieval techniques; and George Benjamin by *Three Inventions*, marking a new path in his development with its creation of a harmonic dimension out of interactive melodic lines.

For Harrison Birtwistle's *Ritual Fragment*, the players joined the Prommers in the arena. Seated in a semi-circle, they rose in turn to play a solo in the centre. The overall tone is elegiac, but this is also superb theatre. Finally came a typically dazzling squib from Thomas Adès, *Living Toys*, whose imaginative world evokes the wild fantasies of a child, taken virtuosity to anarchic limits.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Turkish delight

**OPERA**  
**Il Turco in Italia**  
**Chichester Festival**

BROOMHILL. Opera, evicted from its former home in Kent by change of ownership, has found an even better appointed base in the award-winning theatre of Christ's Hospital near Horsham in Sussex. Sadly the local public have not yet woken to the fact that this brings them fully-staged opera at prices that are a little more than one third of Glyndebourne or Garsington.

Broomhill's principal offering this season is Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia*, the tunesmith's lusty follow-up to *L'italiana in Algeri*, which has always rather unjustly overshadowed it. Directed with good sense by Simon Callow, in a lamp-like evocation of Naples designed by Christopher Woods, Broomhill gives a sunny rendition of a thoroughly sophisticated comedy of sexual mores and amorous interplay.

As the Turk of the title the bass-baritone Matthew Hargreaves makes a persuasive Pasha, keen to consort

with the promiscuous Fiorilla, given thrilling voice by Marguerite Krull, while anxious not to lose the favours of his former love, the slave girl Zaida (a feisty interpretation by Heather Shipp). The confrontation between the two women, a precursor for Marlene Dietrich's set-to in *Destiny Rides Again*, is a convincingly canny spat of hair-pulling, arm-twisting and lace scratching, while Hargreaves's duet with Fiorilla's long-suffering, elderly husband, Don Caramello (Anthony Marber), is a classic bit of pater hussy-trading in which one offers to buy the other's wife while the other threatens to repay him with a punched nose.

As Fiorilla's other lover, Narciso, the tenor Jonathan Boyd revealed a voice of precocious if uncontrolled beauty. An unexpected excursion into falsetto proved an effective way of conveying the character's adolescence, which leaves Fiorilla no option in the end but to return to her tiresome husband.

The catalogue of mischances, disguises and mistaken identities is ingeniously held together by the central figure of a jarring playwright, using the other characters as source material for his new plot. Baritone Mark Oldfield assumes the part with poetic finesse.

From the pit the chamber orchestra Eos gave lively support. Further performances tonight and Saturday, then the show tours to the Tyne Opera House in Newcastle upon Tyne (August 28, 30, September 2, 4, 6).

ROBIN YOUNG

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# Tentative American tourists

For its first visit to Britain in almost two decades, San Francisco Ballet has chosen Balanchine to showcase its talents. Tuesday's opening night programme (sponsored by Dunfermline Building Society) features two Balanchine works, both superlative examples of 20th-century ballet. But if they brought us the opportunity to rejoice yet again in choreography of the very highest order, they also revealed a company not quite comfortable with Balanchine's magnificence.

*Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, which the master made for New York City Ballet's Stravinsky Festival in 1972, is a testing abstract work which brilliantly subverts the precepts of classical construction. Hips are aggressively thrust in pointed rebuke to elegantly academic lines, feet are turned from



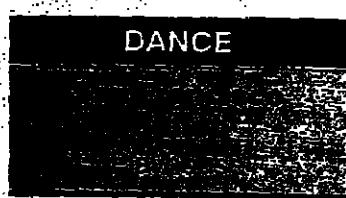
decoratively arched flourishes into assertively flexed starting points for cock-eyed movement. And yet the anarchy of such writing resides firmly within a highly sophisticated classical language.

Like the music, the dance is in four parts, with an opening and closing section for the ensemble and two central pas de deux which define the work's striking personality.

The first is a duet for two dancers (Muriel Maffre and Chidozie Nzerem) who are not concerned with connecting. They are aloof and testy, possibly angry, and certainly more anxious to express their own singularity than to celebrate the pleasure of partnership.

The second pas de deux (here danced by Katia Waldo and Benjamin Pierce) sets up a contrasting relationship. This couple are drawn to each other's warmth — he is tender and supportive, she is yielding and soft.

Although they are at home with the Balanchine language, the company could not quite muster the attack or indeed the glamour of the choreographer's intention. In the end the choreography was fascin-



DANCE

ing (because it is), but the dancing was not.

The glamour of *Symphony in C* is unmistakable. Made in 1947 for the Paris Opera Ballet, it is an utterly dazzling display of cultured dance inspired by Bizet's glorious score (played by a robust Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Enil de Coo). If there is one thing you need for *Symphony in C* it is overwhelming confidence. It is no good being tentative when Balanchine is out there going full blast, taking 19th-century academic

dance on the ride of its life.

Yes, the final movement did thrill on Tuesday night — with 40 dancers whizzing through such a spectacle of accelerated classicism, how could we fail to be excited? And yes, the company did reveal an impressive depth.

But where was the jubilation? Where was the sparkle?

In between these two choreographic marvels, Helgi Tomasson, San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, inserted his own *Sonata*. Danced to Rachmaninov's *Sonata* for Cello and Piano (with cellist David Kadarauch and pianist Roy Bogas on stage), Tomasson's trifle offers a mushy alternative to Balanchine's incisive brilliance.

*Sonata* is a melancholic mood piece whose long, flaccid phrases of dance hint at emotional turning points without ever bringing them to life.

Outstanding amid the blandness, though, was Joanna Berman, a lushly lyrical dancer, whose distinctive presence provided a real focal point. She, at least, was on top form.

DEBRA CRAINE



Members of the San Francisco Ballet struggle to muster the necessary attack and glamour for Balanchine's brilliant but testing work, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*

## Climbing under the lid

The Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires has let it be known that she would just as soon spend the whole rather than just half of the year on her farm, making it self-sufficient so that she will never have to go "out to work" again. The sense that she may be here today, gone tomorrow — that at any time her fresh, intensely musical and intensely individual playing might just vanish for ever from earshot — makes her performance all the more to be cherished.

That sense of living in a borrowed moment met its match in her concert at the Usher Hall in the Schubert she chose to play: the *Four Impromptus* D999 and the *Three Moments musicaux* D780. The *Impromptus*, for all their structural skill and emotional depth, live most fully when they live up to their name, and in Pires's

fingers they certainly did. The single line plaint at the start of the C minor work hovered in the air as if improvised by a distant folk singer; the song of the G flat major seemed spun out of dreams; and the cascading figure of the A flat major positively levitated above some of the lightest left-hand playing this piece can have known.

Pires, who strode on stage in homespun smock and heavy boots, also found the red blood pounding at the heart of these works. The second *Impromptu* pulsed with an inner anguish.

It is that sense of inner turmoil, of eavesdropped passion, which Pires excels in discovering: the more overt, physical struggle of Beetho-

### CONCERTS

ven's music does not come so instinctively to her. Nevertheless, the Beethoven sonatas which framed the Schubert — the E major Op 109 and the *Appassionata* — were uniquely compelling, with variations of hypnotic intensity created through Pires's constant imaginative reinvention of phrasing and timbre.

It was quite a day. In the morning, the Queen's Hall saw the assembling of five musicians, any one of whom would have packed out the house. Violinists Joshua Bell and Pamela Frank, viola player Tabea Zimmermann, cellist

Steven Isserlis and pianist Stephen Hough joined forces for a highly charged performance of Elgar's Piano Quintet. Before that Bell, Isserlis and Hough had played a remarkably broad, serene Mendelssohn Piano Trio No 1, prefaced by something of a discovery: Martin's *Three Madrigals* for violin and viola played by Frank and Zimmermann.

As night fell and the windows of Greyfriars Kirk began to illumine the rather end of town, even rarer sounds could be heard from the old Grey Covenanters' church. This was no less than a Latin Mass by the erstwhile "Canon of Scone", Robert Carver, born in 1484.

Or was it? Having promised us

"magnificent Renaissance polyphony" by a Scottish contemporary of Tallis, Andrew Parrott and his Taverner Consort disclosed in their programme note that the mass *Cantate Domino* was anonymous, possibly a reworking of another Mass, and that Carver's music, housed in the National Library of Scotland, was in a glorious middle as regards sources, completions and chronology.

Be that as it may, the reconstruction we heard revealed a rich and strange fusion of late-medieval decorative style — ravishing writing for high soprano and devilish business for bass — and ecstatic High Renaissance counterpoint. Parrott's robust direction of his band of brightly coloured voices set this pivotal style into high relief.

HILARY FINCH

## Cockney rebel's greatest miss

If small is beautiful, Steven Berkoff really should pack in his solo tours de force immediately, because there's little beauty left in his world, and his poetry of the street simply doesn't ring true any more. The UK premiere of *Message* starts promisingly enough, with Berkoff — dragged up grotesquely to the nines like the panto dame he may yet end up being — in full pout as the backstreet maseuse performing extras for her clapped-out clientele.

What follows is a meticulous and cruel dissection of the English attitude to sex, via outmoded notions of domestic bliss and backstreet love which look something between archaism and extinct. For, while no one is denying that the satana trade is booming, the sex, rather than being grubby and desperate, is presented as a nudge nudge anachronism to be made light of, while Berkoff's depiction of working-class life — seen no doubt through bifocals by a Berkoff looking back on his own humble boyhood — is cheaply patronising.

Barry Phillips, Berkoff's foil,

is just as guilty of cheapening things, and neither seems to have moved on since their glory days, when chirpy Cockneys were a novelty.

The only truth comes via Berkoff's typically top-shelf gynaecological soliloquies, and it was fascinating to note that while the acolytes swallowed everything whole, the cutglass laughter that accompanied the domestic scenes was soon silenced by the fleshier bits. Anyone who thinks this is shocking should get out more.

Berkoff needs to learn that sex these days is far more complicated and relationships far more fractured than when he was a lad. Benny Hill died a long time ago.

And so to Flux, the musical boot up the backside. Edinburgh has been waiting for donkeys' years. Having had the big boys from down south in already, Tuesday night was local heroes' night, or rather Glasgow heroes' night, as all three bands that noised up the bill had jumped the great East Coast-West Coast divide and made Edinburgh their own.

The Delgados' spiky boy/girl pop has come of age of late, and is now tight as a tick. The fact that Chemical Underground, their cottage industry record label, appears to be building the most interesting roster in Scotland has given the band both confidence and credibility points. Vocalist Alun Woodward's between-song banter is lifted straight from the Stephen Pastel school of stage deportment —

while his vocal partner Emma Pollock seems uncharacteristically gigglesome — but they deliver a set that cuts through the Scottish Sonic Youth comparisons and should make them pop stars in their own right.

The mock Baroque flourishes of only occasionally audible flute and cello helped them to swoop and soar in the heat of the Jaffa Cake, where *Thirteen Gliding Principles* proved still to be their best song. Only just, mind.

Mogwai's bass-driven instrumental slabs of glory crashed through the night, with a driven guitar assault

that drags Can into pre-millennium frenzy, whisks it up with Joy Division and Bark Psychosis and serves liberally. Which is what won them so many Single of the Week awards — although here it was primarily new material on offer, with only *New Paths To Helicon* familiar to these ears. The original core quartet has been joined by former Teenage Fanclub and Telstar Pony madman Brendan O'Hare, who has forsaken his drums to become a fully fledged axe hero. There's even a Spacemen 3 cover version, by the end of which your heart's pounding out of synch to a different beat and you think you are about to expire. Mogwai are the future. Right here. Right now. Know what I mean?

Meanwhile, Urusei Yatsura's Yankee-influenced riff-crossover should make the crassness soon. They have already moved on from their initial cartoonified trappings. Don't anyone mention the words "Scotland" and "lo-fi" in the same breath any more.

NEIL COOPER

### FRINGE

AS THE boat of observational humour sinks under the revelation that there is nothing left to observe, the salvation of comedy comes from some odd quarters. Comedy is the new cruelty, and *Chumb* Zarathustra (*Pleasant*) has a firm grip on the electric cattle prod. This cabaret is populated by black-clad sub-men in severe wigs, Romans in fluorescent fun fur, drunk women threatening to strip and the last man on earth, mixed in with aphorisms ("What was the greatest crime of the 20th century? It was Birmingham") and music from the Opera Device.

There is something infinitely pleasing about hearing a serious operatic soprano belting out lyrics so filthy that even Schmitt's ears would shrivel up. Although occasionally too clever for its own good, *Chumb Z* balances the supreme arrogance of the League Against Tedium with honest-to-God silliness and fart jokes. The audience is made to wear dunce's caps, disinfected with spray guns, humiliated, parodied and finally forced out of the auditorium by the spectacle of the entire cast dribbling on to the stage.

The show relies heavily on computer technology to keep the music booming and the slogans flashing up on screens, but at its core is a solid mix of sketches, jokes and songs. The multimedia side is integrated perfectly with the live action and, while it keeps moving at a rapid

## A funny business, cruelty

### COMEDY

pace, the show is proof that material does not need to be dumbed down to keep the audience crying with laughter.

More low-tech but clever also is *In Love 2* (Gilded Balloon), a two-person sketch show about sex and love. Janie Anderson and Gregg Fleet keep the dialogue minimal, but when it comes it is beautifully written and often poignant. "Many times, when I thought Sylvie had been looking into my eyes, she had just been looking."

While most contemporary comedy takes the situation and tries to universalise it, Anderson and Fleet take one basic scenario of boy meets girl and test it through hundreds of permutations. The mixture of characters is wonderful, in particular the woman who falls in love with a fireman and has to keep setting fire to her house so that he can come to rescue her.

What the show manages to capture are the moments of lost logic that love generates, both as it begins and as it ends. A woman who suspects her boyfriend of having an affair asks plaintively: "Why didn't he at least have the decency to empty the ash tray?" Another character admits: "All my best relationships have been with men that I didn't particularly care about, and all my worst have been with men I did."

Much of the humour lies in the accomplished performances, in particular Anderson's expressive face, and the perfectly judged bathos. Apart from a cracking soundtrack, which ranges from Radiohead to Mozart, and a slide projector, *In Love 2* uses no clever tricks, but manages nonetheless to be cruel, personal and funny.

Fleet also has a solo show (*Gilded Balloon*) which follows the fortunes of an old man in a tower block, mingled with memories from Fleet's real and surreal childhood. Sad and funny, it covers everything from collective LSD hallucinations to the boyhood discovery that "hurting yourself in the nude was the ultimate in humour".

The shortlist for this year's Perrier Award for Comedy is: The League of Gentlemen, Al Murray, Milton Jones, Johnny Vegas and Graham Norton. The winner will be announced next week.

HETTIE JUDAH

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We have five prizes for lucky readers to win a stay either at a Relais & Châteaux hotel or enjoy a gourmet Le Lunch. Our first winner, of Monday's competition, is: Mr I Samuel of Farnham, Surrey. (The answer was Costa Brava.) Tuesday's winner is: Mr R Burnstine of Manchester. (The answer was Lyon.)

**Hertz**

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# Fighting his nature's opposition

**Roy Jenkins on the ambiguous career of a contradictory politician**

his style is in general a good enough vehicle for telling his story, it frequently erupts into wild infelicities in the choice of words. Some of them, such as "workerist" as an adjective in front of rhetoric, simply do not exist. Others, such as Cripps's attempts to "supercharge" the Labour Party to its socialist pretensions are ugly without being illuminating. And a few more are inappropriate: "not a peach job" is hardly either necessary.

**STAFFORD CRIPPS**  
The First Modern Chancellor  
By Chris Bryant  
Hodder & Stoughton, £25  
ISBN 0 340 67892 5

This is the first full (but not excessive) length biography of Cripps since 1957, although there had been three before that and during his lifetime, which ended in 1952. There is thus quite a gap to be filled, for Cripps was, with Ernest Bevin (whose fame has weathered better) one of the two pillars which upheld the arch of the Attlee Government. Moreover, he had a varied, indeed disjointed career which did not just depend upon its 1947-50 climax, and those of whom this is true mostly make the more rewarding biographical subjects: Disraeli, say, compared with Bonar Law, or Balfour compared with Nigel Lawson — there was not much juice in the latter two of each pair outside their comparatively brief periods of high office.

How well does Chris Bryant fill the gap? The answer, I think, is that at the macro level he does so very well indeed, but at the micro level a great deal less so (these jargonish terms are not inappropriate to Cripps, who in spite of his brilliance as an advocate never had much feel for elegance of language and was moreover the Chancellor to introduce an economic planning department into the Treasury).

The macro is of course by definition more important than the micro, and by Bryant's success at this level I mean that he understands Cripps well, sometimes writing paragraphs of great penetration about him. He avoids hagiography by a wide margin; he has done more than adequate research into the lay-bys of Cripps's life, such as his oddly motivated although grandly executed round-the-world tour (mainly India, China with an offshoot to Russia) in, of all periods to choose, the autumn, winter and early spring of 1939-40, or his immersion in aircraft types during his antediplomatic but highly competent years as Minister of Aircraft Production from 1942 to 1945. Bryant maintains throughout a high sense of proportion and a good narrative swing. By his micro faults I mean first that, while

for the curious ambiguity of Cripps's career. This had no natural progression. Although he came of a political family, Cripps took no part in politics until he was over 40. The first Labour Government and the General Strike both left him undisturbed from his legal practice, which was as specialised as it was successful, concentrated upon complicated commercial actions. Church affairs were almost his only diversion during this period.

Then he came into the Labour Party with a golden spoon in his mouth. He was imposed upon a Bristol constituency in order that he might immediately take his place on the second MacDonald Government's front bench as Solicitor-General. After a brief post-1931 period in a triumvirate of leadership of the almost annihilated parliamentary leadership he plunged further and further to the left. The content of his statements, still delivered in a precise legal voice, became increasingly shrill. The clerk of the Labour establishment became a self-appointed tribune of the minority. In 1939 he was expelled from the Labour Party, and remained an isolated but at times extremely powerful voice until 1945. As ambassador to Moscow he fortuitously became the symbol of successful Russian resistance to Hitler. There was a short period, in 1942, when it almost seemed as though he might replace Churchill. Then his star faded, and he served for the rest of the war as an effective but essentially peripheral departmental minister.

By the beginning of the Attlee Government he was back in communion with official Labour and rose inexorably over the next two years to be the dominating economic minister. As an austere but commanding Chancellor he became the embodiment of responsible government and self-disciplined patriotism. The connection between this dedicated servant of the State and the unanchored agitator of the Thirties became difficult to recall. It was almost as though the Russians, during his embassy,



The signing of the Burma Treaty, 1947: Cripps, Thakin Nu, Attlee and Bevin

had performed some motiveless feat of substitution.

Cripps's authority again became great, but longer-lasting than in 1942. Supporting his economic leadership was the major role which he had played in negotiating Indian independence. Seven years Attlee's junior, it seemed plausible in 1948 and 1949 that he might be his successor. Maybe this would not have occurred in any event. He had many of the qualities of leadership, but they were balanced by a lack of common sense and an inability to see problems in perspective. He was at once clever and naive, penetrating and unsuitable.

This mixture of qualities may have made him best commanding a vital segment of the front and not the overall operation, a role he brilliantly fulfilled for a relatively short period. But ill-health drove him into retirement five years before Attlee, who survived him by 14 years: his possible succession was never put to the test. But he remains one of the outstanding architects of postwar Britain. Bryant understands very well the strengths and weaknesses of this inspirational, unusual but ill-rounded man.

Roy Jenkins's *Gladstone* is published in paperback by Papermac, priced £10.

Roy Porter is swamped by the details of a scientist's life

## When the value of facts is only relative

Albert Einstein became a myth in his own lifetime — the theorist of relativity, the Nobel laureate, the greatest physicist of the 20th century, the tireless pacifist. Absent-minded, unworldly, with that memorable mane of white hair, that droopy moustache, that twinkle in his eye, he became not just the world's idea of scientific genius but the acceptable face of science in the age of the Bomb. But what was the life behind the legend? Actual reality was more intriguing than image, as the German physicist and writer Albrecht Fölsing documents in exhausting detail.

Contrary to myth, Einstein was not a failure at school. But there was something self-generated about the intense passion for physics which he carried from childhood to the grave. The solitary voyaging of the pioneer — at first forced upon him, later self-created — sustained his sense of wonder at nature and preserved his childlike confidence in his own prodigious powers.

Also contrary to myth, Einstein's abiding sense of being an outsider had little, initially at least, to do with being a Jew forced to make his way in a Gentile world. Though German-born, young Albert received most of his education and gained his first posts in

Switzerland; there, and later in Prague where he took a chair, his ethnic origins proved little handicap and, like many Jews around 1900, he was rather eager (perhaps like Freud) to forget about the religion and the Jewish culture of his family. Indeed he married out, his first wife being a Greek Orthodox Serb. What truly fuelled his sense of being a loner was his profound antipathy to the chauvinism gripping even his fellow sci-

**ALBERT EINSTEIN**  
A Biography  
By Albrecht Fölsing  
Viking, £25  
ISBN 0 670 85545 6

tists in the run-up to the First World War. Einstein, who adopted Swiss citizenship, could never fathom why a person's nationality was of any significance.

How then was it that in due course he became a leading campaigner for Zionism? It was the upsurge of vicious anti-Semitism in post-1918 Germany that stirred his dormant sense of Jewish identity and led him, once he had become the world's most famous scientist — indeed, the world's most famous Jew — to

campaign not for "Israel", yet another chauvinist nation state, but for turning Palestine into a cultural homeland for the Jews.

Attacked by anti-Semites and militant Zionists alike, Einstein was probably no more adroit at politics than at marriage. But his indiscretions somehow never mattered with the wider public, anxious to clutch hold of the coat-tails of genius, and delighted to find that such a brain could be loveable, approachable and humble, something like a cross between Christ and Chaplin, a latter-day holy fool.

All this is meticulously recorded in this monster book which, at risk of national stereotyping, could be said to have all the virtues of Prussian thoroughness (nor is it helped by Ewald Osers's wooden translation). The trouble is that livelier biographies have appeared recently, and Fölsing cannot outgun them with unappetising sources or dazzling psychological insights.

The reader craves to be let into the secret of Einstein's psyche. From Arthur Koestler to Adrian Desmond, science biographers have given us windows onto scientists' minds. Fölsing, by contrast, rarely rises above a recital of Einstein's appointments diary.

You can be too polite

A. L. Kennedy

THE NINE LIVES OF NAOMI MITCHISON  
By Jenni Calder  
Virago, £20  
ISBN 1 85381 724 4

A *New Statesman* review of Naomi Mitchison's novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land* runs "... she has the ease, that definiteness of success, which shows that failure was not even thinkable: she does not make a book, it is there, real, solid, intimidating." The same might be said of Mitchison herself. "Long claimed as a Scottish author, Mitchison has been an alarming gold standard beside which the achievements of other Scottish writers tend to shrivel. She is a hard, if not impossible, act to follow. Her pursuit of excellence is a simple and often unselfconscious part of her nature, but it is also capable of producing the kind of awe which makes Calder's a very polite biography of a — quite frequently — very impolite lady."

Now in her 100th year Mitchison has embraced a life of remarkable passion, commitment and sheer activity. Born in the genteel, intellectual Haldane dynasty, she became a nurse in the First World War, stunned International Brigaders with lectures on safe sex and energetically farmed her way through the Second World War. She charmed, infuriated, campaigned and wrote among Chelsea Bohemians, Carradale fishermen, Botswana villagers and parliamentary wives. Novelist, journalist, poet, playwright, she has pro-



Mitchison stands alone

duced more than 70 books, been mother to seven children and enjoyed one husband and several lovers.

Laissons apart, Mitchison loved to stand alone. Having capsize a canoe she was learning to paddle, she answered her gentlemanly instructors "I'll rescue you" with "no you won't". She felt herself constantly in danger of being a possession within relationships. Her desire was to compete on equal terms with men. Calder's approach is gentle, but still makes clear that Mitchison never really got her level playing field. After a decade or so of success leading into the Thirties, Mitchison's work lost favour. Despite ecstatic early reviews, by the Forties she was struggling to write and sustain her faith in her own abilities alone.

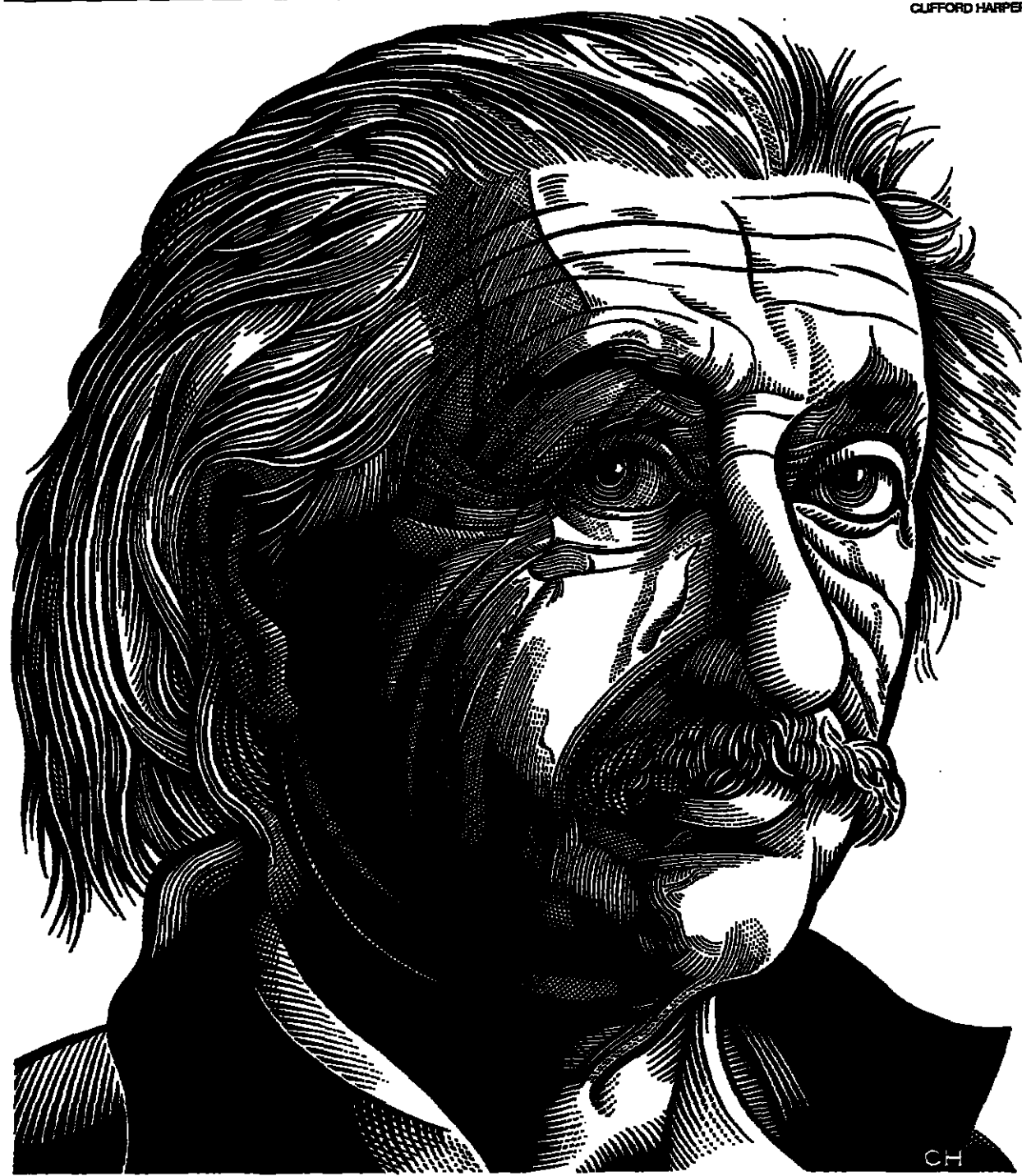
The literary establishment never forgave her postwar move to Scotland, long before Scottish writing became sexy. Readers may note that the London-centred, male-orientated literary culture described is not entirely unfamiliar today.

On these and other points, Calder relies faintly uncritically on Mitchison's undoubted abilities as an autobiographer. Mitchison is quoted as saying: "All my life I have been very much in the hands of the books I was writing... any of what I did was also part of a book." Far be it from me to suggest that you can trust what any writer says in this area about as far as you can spit hot wax... but there are times when Calder seems frustratingly content to accept the image Mitchison presents without further question.

I abhor the second guesses of pop psychological biographers and don't suggest that Calder should have done a knife job on an admirable woman. But Mitchison, a writer so fearlessly and clinically interested in her own and others' motivations, might sometimes have deserved a little more investigation.

Not that this isn't an immensely readable book, detailed enough to get up historical context without being stodgy, and well-disposed to the subject without being idolatrous. A decision has been taken to concentrate more on the life and less on the artistic process, but this has produced a work which will encourage readers to rediscover Mitchison's writing, for themselves — something I applaud wholeheartedly.

A. L. Kennedy's *Original Bliss* is published by Corgi, priced £14.99.



## The familial crises of two Cuban misses

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

THE AGÜERO SISTERS  
By Cristina García  
Picador, £5.99  
ISBN 0 330 32016 6

CUBA, the outpost of a decayed ideal, nurtures a distinctive temperament. The giddy hedonism of an island which surely senses it cannot barricade itself much longer against the modern world mingles with disappointment of a shattered dream. This novel by Cuban émigrée Cristina García captures both these moods, distilling them into the twinned themes of sex and death.

The *Agüero Sisters* is the interweaving narrative of two daughters, Reina and Constanza. Reina, the younger, works as an electrician in Cuba. Stagnant and sensual, with thighs strengthened by shining up telegraph poles, her body is an open invitation to pleasure. "If she could grasp nothing in its entirety then why not celebrate what she could grasp with her own senses." She luxuriates in a power to reduce men to a state of helplessness. But when she is struck by lightning (the improbable becomes the norm in this novel) she begins to think it would be better if she were dead. Her grafted skin, mismatched and scratchy, smells to her of blood and sour milk. It ruins her familiar pleasures — "her rapture and her hot black scent". Until suddenly, at precisely 5.13 one morning, she suddenly knows one thing for certain: that she can no longer stay in Cuba. She illicitly escapes to join her sister Constanza in Miami.

Constanza, her elder sister, is petite with lacquered nails, carnelian lips and a firm belief that comfort should never be placed before style. Owner of a successful company

manufacturing beauty products, her chief concern is to stave off women's "little everyday deaths". "If politics have betrayed the Cubans and geography overlooked them, her *Cuerpo de Cuba* products still manage to touch the pink roots of their sadness."

Though the two sisters seem so different, they are rooted in a Cuban past which draws them together. The voices of their parents — two biologists whose life of shared passion ended in sudden and violent death — provides a context for their daughters' voices. Together they shape a mesmerising — if bewildering — portrait of a family whose lives reflect the mood and history of Cuba.

This is a loose, drifting novel. Curiously, and often irritatingly, nebulous, the plot hinges on memories and emotions, magic and impossible turns of fate. To try to pin it down is to lose it. "You don't know how much of what you see, *mi hija*, you never see at all," Reina's mother says. But always a stringent sense of reality twists through the dreams. History forms a harsh bedrock to this tale.

## The mind behind the apron

FEW organisations can have inspired such suspicion, irritation and fascination as Freemasonry. Masons have been condemned by the Roman Catholic Church as the enemies of religion; they have been accused of engaging in a worldwide conspiracy; their secret practices arouse both derision and dread; they have been associated with some of the wilder speculations about the origins of Christianity, featuring the Turin Shroud, the Knights Templar, Holy Blood and Holy Grail.

Alexander Platigorsky has attempted an academic exploration of Freemasonry as a religious, intellectual and social phenomenon. He examines the myths and rituals of the Lodge in comparative perspective, showing their similarity to elements in Buddhism, ancient Semitic religion as well as to Christianity. He also outlines the history of Freemasonry from its official emergence in the early 18th century and discusses the significance of the Masons' belief that their society can be traced back to Cain, who built the first city.

Unfortunately, readers who felt confused about Freemasonry before embarking on this book are likely to be even more perplexed by the time they stagger to the end. Platigorsky has no gift for narrative and impedes the progress of his argument with a mass of unnecessary, repetitive and misplaced speculation, theory and personal reflection. He has the annoying habit of

introducing a potentially fascinating insight (as, for example, that the first British Masons saw Freemasonry as a solution to the endemic tension between individual desire and public responsibility) without explaining precisely what he means.

Nevertheless, fugal moments of illumination make this frequently frustrating book worthwhile. It would appear, for example, that despite its conscious archaism, Freemasonry is an essentially modern movement, at one and the same time a reaction against the rationalism of the Enlightenment and an attempt to cast some of its precepts into an alternative form. Thus the syncretism of Freemasonry, which blends many diverse religious strains, can be compared to the Delsm of the philosophes, which also sought to transcend the narrower confines of dogmatic faith.

Again, the Freemasons' emphasis on history can be seen in much the same light as later attempts by Hegel or Marx to discern the underlying theme that impels history forward. Platigorsky shows that the Masons' rewriting of world history was a philosophical rather than a factual exercise, intended as a symbolic manifestation of a trans-historical power that forms history but is not formed by it.

Indeed, like other religious movements, Freemasonry may well provide rituals and myths that enable people to cope with the peculiar stress and paradox of Western



Lodge concern: a Freemason General

modernity. The great merit of Platigorsky's book is his refusal to patronise Masons and his scrupulous attempt to see their ideas on their own terms. Perhaps any attempt to articulate rationally an esoteric philosophy, which of its very nature can only make sense to initiates and which appeals to a level beneath the cerebral and the conscious, is doomed to make it seem even more incomprehensible to outsiders than it is in practice.



# Paradise amidst suburbia

Roy Strong strolls through a stately work on Windsor

One of my more hilarious memories of the gardens and parks of Windsor is of a crew arriving to film the East Garden of the Castle and no one knowing where the switch which worked the fountain was to be located. Sadly the fountain known to Queen Victoria had been handed over to Kew Gardens, replaced in this reign by a hideous bronze lotus.

That anecdote in a way sums up the history of almost anything royal. Inevitably, even in the case of parks and gardens, interest ebbs and flows as much as the availability of cash. And taste and aesthetic flair equally comes and goes. In this sense parks and gardens are far more vulnerable than buildings through the damage which can be done by sheer neglect.

Being entombed into the Royal Household (she is Curator of the Print Room in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle) Jane Roberts knows all of this only too well, but it has inhibited her sharp mind from uttering, for example, a word of criticism about the actions of her present employers, such as the demolition of most of the famous Victorian Kitchen Garden buildings. But this in no way detracts from a masterly volume which is essentially one of reference. Nonetheless, great pleasure is to be derived from the superb accumulation of visual evidence and the equally elegant presentation characteristic of Yale University Press.

Windsor Great Park and the smaller area to the north, Home Park, today consists of some 5,500 acres. This is the story of a remarkable continuity—more, I think, than any other royal domain. For this was once part of the hunting forest of the Normans. Yet today there is little that pre-dates the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. To that era belongs the Long Walk, the spectacular avenue which strides away from the Castle to the Great Park. Everything else from the Baroque era has vanished, including the rules of rides along which the chaise bearing the corpulent Queen Anne bowed in pursuit of deer.

## ROYAL LANDSCAPE The Gardens and Parks of Windsor

By Jane Roberts  
Yale UP  
ISBN 0 300 07099 9

The park today is largely a monument to three members of the House of Hanover. The first is "Butcher" Cumberland who, in the aftermath of Culloden, set about transforming the landscape with temples, grottoes and eye-catchers. His greatest creation was the under-appreciated Virginia Water, the largest artificial lake ever made in Georgian England. The second is George III's Queen, Charlotte. To her we owe the enchantments of Frogmore House and the paradise surrounding it, a delight obscured by the gloom of Victoria and Albert's mausoleum.

Number three, the prodigal George VI, should have left more of a mark than he did. Here he hid himself away with his mistresses at Royal Lodge, hunting by secret ways down to his Disneyland Chinese Temple built "to enable royalty to angle for minnows and sticklebacks". Not only has this gone, but all of Royal Lodge, too, but one room. His East Terrace Garden, changed, remains at the Castle, as does the once glorious Ruins of Leptis Magna, by Virginia Water, today a very sorry sight crying out for restoration.

By then the Great Park was a symbol of much that would have brought the monarchy tumbling had it not been for Albert, the Prince Consort. Everything, now, had to be done for profit and information. Model farms were built, the labouring classes cared for, prize cattle bred and steam-powered machinery introduced. Even, shades of our own age, chemical fertilisers were used. The Prince saw farming as an "industrial pursuit requiring capital, machinery and industry".

In this century only Sir Eric Savill has added anything of substance with his between-the-wars gardens of flowering



Loving care: repairing the imposing Copper Horse, erected by George IV in memory of his father, in 1969

shrubs. What is so striking is that it took the monarchy centuries to attain privacy but, once achieved, the forces of democracy eroded it again. These pressures have never ceased. Indeed, the Queen has annually to open her only private garden, the cemetery of Frogmore. What will hap-

pen in the new reign to this oasis in what has become suburbia it is intriguing to speculate. In the meantime Jane Roberts has provided everyone connected with Windsor Great Park with a magisterial work of reference by which to govern its management in the future.

# Different from the rest of us

Lesley Chamberlain

## EXTRAORDINARY MINDS

By Howard Gardner  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99  
ISBN 0 2978 19 518

What makes the kind of extraordinary person who changes the way we think, listen, write or view the world? And is it something science can and should measure? Howard Gardner, who holds chairs of education and neurology at Harvard and Boston, believes extraordinary people have common characteristics: they reflect continually on their human condition and their work, they lever themselves forward by concentrating on their strengths and bypassing their weaknesses, and they almost revel in their setbacks.

The Master type, Mozart, is possessed by "the skill, the personality, the will, indeed the rage" to bring his art to perfection. His struggle with his father and established taste is less interesting than the fact that music fills his being, that composing is less fatiguing than resting, and that his artistic personality always retains the childlike alongside the adult. Freud doesn't perfect but creates new areas of knowledge. He is the exemplary Maker, driven, addicted to his work, and quick to recover from criticism. Others are drawn into his orbit at their peril.

Enthralled by classifying, system-building and problem-solving, he is above all a problem finder. The arch-introspector Virginia Woolf is a similarly driven pioneer, wanting to explore and spell out how it feels to be conscious, but her domain is herself. "An accelerator but no brakes," in Quentin Bell's phrase, she surfs the heights of manic depression, and has clear, true vision in its troughs. Family problems add to her inwardness. She, whose life would end in suicide, is less than exemplary in dealing with criticism and adversity.

Gandhi, the Influencer, is at once far more orientated towards other people, and perceptive of their motives, than the other three types. His drive is to speak up, to risk his position in the group, to examine his own values and set new standards. If you want to be extraordinary you should live in the right age, when a rush of new ideas waits to be synthesised. Better, understand the uses of failure and introspection and wrestle with tension, don't solve it. And I would say, though Gardner neglects the topics, you should

also be ill and be lonely. This is a peculiarly mixed-up, ill-tuned book, which at times reads like a careers guidance booklet and feels like an approach to the altar in wellies. Its "scientific" quality is less obvious than its decency. Gardner perhaps remembers, as I do, those Good Lives that were the stuff of junior school silent reading, and before the sexuality of Florence Nightingale was un-



Woolf, Gandhi: genius

masked. While acknowledging the pain extraordinary people often cause, he is right to admire genius and look at its benign, pedagogical aspects. Egalitarian or perhaps just cynical colleagues on the Post-Modern bandwagon who accuse Gardner of betraying the genius of Joe Soap, seem wrong to the point of betraying the human race.

But this book is too small for its aims, too painfully pedestrian in style, and lacks reference to older research into greatness, above all I think to Freud's, erstwhile colleague Adler. The theory of over-compensation for weaknesses took Mozart as one of its greatest exemplars.

# Held in bondage to event

David Dabydeen

## FEEDING THE GHOSTS

By Fred D'Aguiar  
Chano & Windus, £14.99  
ISBN 0 7011 6668 1

In September 1781, the Liverpool ship *Zong* left the coast of Africa for Jamaica with 470 slaves on board. By November, more than 60 slaves had died, and the captain decided to dispose of half the rest who were sick by throwing them overboard. English law at the time, the captain believed, would define them as goods lost at sea, and their insurance value would be recoverable. When the claim was lodged in London, the underwriters refused to pay up, a court case ensued, and the captain won. Abolitionists like Granville Sharp described the death of the Africans as "a flagrant offence against God and against all mankind". He pressed for the captain and his crew to be prosecuted for murder, but no such action was entertained by the courts.

The *Zong* case received considerable publicity in England, and many anti-slavery tracts used it as an example of the barbarity to which the English nation had sunk in its commercial greed. Popular ballads exploited its lurid sensational details, and helped to bring the Abolition movement to the attention of the common people. The most famous work inspired by *Zong* was Turner's painting *The Slave Ship*, exhibited at the Royal Academy



The suffering sea: Turner's *The Slave Ship* expresses the horror of slavery indirectly

in 1840. It was, according to Ruskin, his greatest work in the sublime style. In *The Slave Ship*, the act of inhumanity is commemorated in the epic raving of the elements. The very sea and sky are caught up in monumental suffering. The 19th century produced no greater testimony to the cruelties of the African trade than Turner's painting.

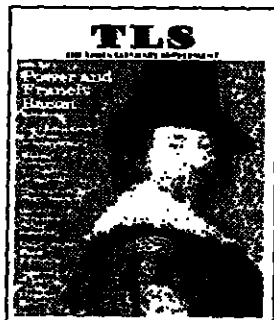
Turner's work raised questions about how best to represent slavery which are still relevant today. Artists like Blake dwell in detail on the gross abuse of the African body, but Turner avoided the physical altogether, preferring to let the viewer imagine the horrors of slavery. Black writers of our time have faced a similar challenge. Charles Johnson, in his magnificent novel *The Middle Passage*, chose Turner's path, his prose conveying the epic energy of the sea. A novel on slavery, it is also an old-fashioned sea

yarn, Johnson packing his narrative with vivid descriptions of storms and creating characters whose rudition and philosophical rumination deliberately break the frame of realism. Like Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Johnson's interest is as much in the writing of slavery, as in slavery itself. He plays with language with the exuberance and inventiveness of a poet.

Fred D'Aguiar, a fine poet, strenuously avoids lyrical treatment of slavery in his new novel. The sublimity of Turner, the proto-Expressionism of Blake and the magical realism of Johnson and Morrison are not for him. He chooses a documentary style, giving us the facts and the figures of the *Zong* episode, and not bothering much with the creation of character or colour. It is a novel that is consciously more "faction" than fiction. Captain Collingwood, villain of the piece, has

no existence outside the ship and the High Court. The slaves are given little recollection of their villages, except for "noble savage" type dances in the arms of lovers, dances at harvest, at births, at deaths... No attempt is made to imagine Africa, or individual lives.

Stripping the novel of artistic language and vivid imagery can work successfully; Ishiguro's stated intention (albeit tongue-in-cheek) has been to write without "effects". In D'Aguiar's writing, however, the flattening of the narrative leaves the impression that the poet is taking a break from poetry by producing a perfunctory novel. But he is too good a writer to be truly dull and to engage in self-denial. There is the occasional surge of imagery that suddenly disturbs the prose, reminding us of D'Aguiar's talent. His effort to write a dull novel fails, thankfully, at these moments.



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The image shows a vertical strip of a document, likely a page from a book or a page from a newspaper. The text is partially visible and appears to be from a racing program. At the top, the word "RACING" is visible. Below it, the name "Cecil" is prominently displayed. Further down, the word "YORK" is visible. The text is somewhat obscured by a large, dark, irregular shape that runs vertically down the center of the page. At the bottom, the name "SALISBURY" is visible. The overall appearance is that of a high-contrast, black and white scan of a document page.







## CRICKET

## McCague's ban body blow to Kent

By IVO TENNANT

TAUNTON (first day of four: Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 336 for six wickets against Kent

INTENT as they are on winning the Britannic Assurance county championship, Kent chose to conserve Martin McCague's vigour by omitting him from their match against the Australians last weekend. They need scarcely have bothered. In his third over yesterday, the umpire, Alan Whitehead, ordered McCague out of the attack for the rest of the innings for bowling an excessive number of bouncers, followed by a beamer.

Quite apart from anything else, it was exceedingly unintelligent, given that Kent, who were ten points behind the leaders at the start of play, were reduced to four regular bowlers on another sweltering day. Rob Turner, the recipient of the bouncers and the

no-balled, and then a ball which Whitehead referred to as "a chest-high full toss".

Both bowler and umpire declared that this was accidental, but, Whitehead said: "I had no choice, even though McCague apologised. He had already received a final warning." So McCague, who will be able to bowl in Somerset's second innings, spent the rest of the day in the outfield, where he dropped Ecclestone, who also made a century. It was a straightforward chance.

Ever since Nasser Hussain advocated after the last Test match that county cricket was too chummy, there has been an spate of unpleasant incidents. McCague, with his Irish-Australian background, has never appeared a softie. He has bowled well this season, but this was a daft piece of cricket. Marsh, the Kent captain, had a lengthy mid-pitch discussion with Whitehead, to no avail. If Lord Harris had still been around, McCague would no doubt have been banished to the pavilion.

John Wright, the normally genial Kent coach, limited himself to a terse "the umpires are in control of the match". David Kemp, the club chairman, who has a firm belief in upholding standards, was at the ground, as was Derek Upton, the chairman of the cricket committee.

The result was that some excellent cricket was overshadowed. Turner, who struck 20 fours and batted for all but the closing overs, is one of the highest English-qualified cricketers in the first-class averages and must have a chance of going on the A tour this winter. His age, 30 in November, will not help his cause. He showed no histrionics over the beamer and, on a pitch that eased in the afternoon, drove with much zest.

Somerset were without Bowler and Harden, the captain and his deputy, and almost lost Ecclestone, their third choice to lead them, as well. He retired with a knee injury when still in single figures, returning with his side in need of someone to stay with Turner. His first championship century was reached in the final over and included 16 fours and a six.

## SCOREBOARD

SOMERSET: First Innings  
P. C. L. Hollaway c Ward b Phillips 144  
S. C. Ecclestone not out 103  
M. N. Latham c Marsh b Fleming 28  
M. E. Treaclock c Marsh b Fleming 10  
M. Barnes c Marsh b Fleming 10  
G. D. Ross c Marsh b Fleming 35  
S. Hetherington not out 1  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A. P. van Tonder, M. Aslam and K. J. Shino to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-73, 3-76, 4-93, 5-148, 6-319

BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips 20-5-74-3, Eatham 24-5-58-2, Fleming 22-1-33-2, Strong 26-6-78-0, Wells 6-2-18-0

KENT: D. P. Fulton, E. T. Smith, T. R. Ward, A. P. Wells, G. R. Cowdrey, M. A. Eatham, M. V. Fleming, "15 A. Marsh, P. A. Strang, M. J. McCague, B. J. Phillips  
Bonus points: Somerset 3 Kent 2  
Umpires: RA White and AG T Whitehead

beamer — which missed him — batted until shortly before the close, making a career-best 144. The England and Wales Cricket Board said it would not be taking any action.

Whitehead, a former Test umpire, acted in accordance with Law 42, which gives him no leeway. In his opening over, McCague, who became carried away with the pitch he discovered in this pitch, was warned for bowling two bouncers. His second over was relatively uneventful. His third began with a bouncer, a second bouncer, which was



McCague departs for the outfield after Whitehead, left, the umpire, had ordered his removal from the attack

## Hungry Wells makes good use of reprieve

By PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (first day of four: Leicestershire have scored 373 for seven wickets against Derbyshire

THERE has still been no satisfactory explanation for the Derbyshire conflict that began with the captain, Dean Jones, walking out in June and led to the chairman, Mike Horton, resigning on the eve of this match, but it was not difficult to pinpoint the precise moment when it all went wrong for them again yesterday.

In the twelfth over, Vince Wells, the Leicestershire opener, who was then on 25, gave Dominic Cork a straightforward return catch that the England all-rounder inexplicably dropped. In the 96th over, Wells was finally out, finishing within ten runs of his fourth double-century in two seasons.

Apart from Maddy, who contributed 33 to an opening stand of 144, and Whitaker, who positively bristled in a

third-wicket partnership of 89 in only 17 overs, none of the other Leicestershire batsmen got very far. Wells, however, more than made up for that by scoring his 190 off 291 balls in seven minutes over six hours, hitting 33 fours and a six.

Leicestershire signed Wells as an all-rounder when he was released by Kent five years ago, but since being asked to open the batting last season, he has shown himself to be one of the sweetest timers of the ball in county cricket, with a voracious appetite for runs. He had much to do with Leicestershire winning the championship last season and he was just the man to make Derbyshire pay for some ordinary bowling once Cork had put him down.

Wells had reached 71 by lunch and he needed only 15 balls afterwards to race to his third century this summer as he ruthlessly saw off Blackwell, the young left-arm spinner before clattering the suffering Cork for successive boundaries.

## Essex rely on fearless Law to impose order

By RICHARD HOBSON

WORKSOP (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex have scored 319 for four wickets against Nottinghamshire

THERE is a familiar pattern to fixtures here at Central Avenue. Batting is a joy for three days, then the pitch crumbles and the spin bowlers emerge from the outfield to run amok. Paul Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, may well cut a gloomy presence over his cornfields this morning as he ponders the tribulations ahead.

Nottinghamshire, who have released Andy Pick after 15 seasons, asked the groundsman to leave a good covering of grass on the surface in an attempt to assist their phalanx of seamers and nullify the threat of Such. Ball best bat only rarely, though, and, despite the loss of Hussain to England and Irani to injury, Essex will be considerably happier with the state of play.

It says much for the pace of the pitch that Noon, the wicketkeeper, was standing

up to the stumps after just 20 minutes. Only Stuart Law scored runs at any great pace — 115 from 131 balls in a shade more than three hours. Such statistics imply domination, but, in this case, they tell only part of the story.

On 18, Law attempted to loft Evans over long-on and saw the ball narrowly evade the despairing Robinson. Nor was that the only occasion on which he went through with an uppish drive when less confident players might have checked the stroke. Fortune favoured the brave. The second of his two sixes against Afzal landed on the adjacent bowling green before the young slow left-arm took revenge when Law top-edged a sweep to Noon.

Like Pritchard in the morning, Law passed a thousand runs for the season. The most promising innings, however, came from Hodgson, 22, a left-hander. He had proceeded to 44 without discomfort when Astle removed him with a slower ball.

## All downhill for Glamorgan's title challenge

Simon Wilde on a bizarre day's cricket in the shadow of Sugar Loaf Mountain

Anywhere else and it might have raised an eyebrow or two, but, at this particular cricket ground, it was really to be expected. The quaint Pen-y-Found ground, in Abergavenny is not only one of the lowest on which county matches are staged — it nestles beneath Sugar Loaf Mountain — it also has a rare talent for throwing up the bizarre. It is a reputation that it lived up to fully yesterday.

It was, truly, a Welsh comedy of errors. First Matthew Maynard, captain of a Glamorgan side that is pushing hard for the Britannic Assurance county championship, experienced a last-minute change of heart about his team to play Northamptonshire and decided to field a second spin bowler. He sent for Dean Cosker, who was 150 miles away at the time, preparing to play for the second XI at Lensbury CC, near Heathrow.

Soon after, Glamorgan were going through their pre-match callisthenics when Hugh Morris and Darren Thomas collided. Morris rickling his ankle so badly that he was obliged to withdraw from the game. Maynard got back on the telephone to Lensbury and summoned Alan Evans. Northamptonshire won the toss and chose to bat against Glamorgan's nine men and two substitutes.

Then came the pièce de résistance. Waqar Younis had not bowled a ball before he voiced the first suspicion. Something appeared to be wrong with the pitch, he said. He got through one over and Watkin through another before Tony Clarkson and Graham Burgess, the umpires, called a halt. Something was, indeed, wrong. The pitch was skew-whiff.

An inspection duly revealed that the pitch markings — the popping crease, and return creases — were out of alignment, a rare but not unheard of mistake by groundstaff. It is an error that is usually prevented by measuring the diagonals from the ends of the two popping creases. They should be equal in length,

but, in this case, were five inches out, giving batsman and bowler seriously cock-eyed views of each other.

"I have been doing this job 13 years and this is the first time this has happened," Ken Mackenzie, the Abergavenny club groundsman, said. "We took all the usual measurements and they appeared to be OK. I do not know what went wrong. It was not a case of the stumps being out of alignment. We did not have to move them at all."

Play was deemed to have been held up for 28 minutes, though it did not resume until 12.20pm because of a shower, and the scheduled intervals and close of play were put back accordingly.

The crowd of 1,500 was informed of these changes once the public address was working, the ground having been briefly hit by a power cut.

Northamptonshire resumed their innings where they had left off, on seven for no wicket, but seemed to prefer crazy vision to the 20-20 variety. By lunch, they had slumped 51 for three on a ground renowned for high scoring.

They were in even greater difficulty at 182 for six in the afternoon, by which stage Glamorgan had been reinforced by Cosker and Evans, but Curran led a fightback with a career-best innings of 159 from 201 balls.

He struck two sixes and 25 fours and revived memories of Andrew Symonds's world record of 20 sixes in a match here two years ago. Local residents and members of the bowls club around which part of the boundary skirts have long since got used to donning their hard hats when county cricket makes its annual visit to the town.

Northamptonshire closed on 302 for eight and lived to fight another day, assuming they do not in the interim fall foul of the local cuisine. Twelve years ago, the Worcester side went down with food poisoning here.

## Boon breaks captains' duck

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Durham won toss): Durham have scored 285 for six wickets against Middlesex

DAVID BOON yesterday laid to rest the gloomy statistic that no previous Durham captain had scored a championship hundred and, in doing so, ensured that Durham avoided a customary mid-innings collapse (Alastair Storey writes).

Winning the toss on a cloudless day, he elected to bat on what appeared to be a blanching surface devoid of any real pace. Middlesex's

initial spell certainly provided little to trouble Durham, but the visitors then tightened their line and Lewis was soon snared when Kallis jagged one back in the seventeenth over. Johnson, denied the new ball, was now producing the hostility Middlesex had earlier lacked. When Speight squared up and edged Kallis to Gatting at first slip, Durham were subsiding at 153 to four.

Boon, though, with a combination of resolute defence and imperious driving, compiled 110 from 229 balls with 14 fours. From the Middlesex

reaction to Hewitt's head-high drop at a custom-made fine leg, with Boon on 42, they sensed that it would be costly.

Before bad light and drizzle ended play 11 overs early, Middlesex, through Kallis, had captured both Weston — who profited from Boon's composure — and Boon. This ensures that a good early spell today will see off Durham's tail, whereupon Middlesex can begin the task of establishing a sizeable lead on a pitch that is likely to become more uneven. Without Ramprakash, this will be less than routine.

## Hutchison roars back

SCARBOROUGH (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Yorkshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 17 runs ahead of Sussex

PAUL HUTCHISON is a name remembered vaguely by most cricket-lovers. A surprising selection last season for the Rest against England A, after making a promising debut in Zimbabwe, he then injured his back and was virtually forgotten (Derek Hodgson writes).

The Yorkshire player is issued a reminder yesterday. Bowling a lively left-arm over, he claimed his third five-

wicket haul in successive matches and, this summer, has 25 wickets at an average of 11. Sussex, on a greenish pitch that is taking turn, lost their openers for three runs. Once Keith Newell had gone, his younger brother, Mark, who made an admirable unbeaten 62, was left looking agast at the last five wickets went down in 15 balls for seven.

Yorkshire, too, found the pitch no place to picnic. But Darren Lehman, who has been preferred to Michael Bevan as their overseas professional next year, demonstrated why he has become such a popular figure.

## Mirza makes most of chance

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Worcestershire

IN TERMS of championship honours, this could be a make-or-break match (Jack Bailey writes). Worcestershire have the more realistic chance, but Warwickshire are not quite out of it yet. Early signs led the way, though. Several Warwickshire batsmen sailed into the twenties or thirties, played one rash shot too many and left.

There was a great deal in the conditions for the seam bowlers throughout the day. There was, too, occasional awkward bounce, especially from the Pavilion End, but there were also too many injudicious strokes. With 40 from 69 balls, Neil Smith shared top billing with extras, but someone should have progressed way beyond that. Even though 22 overs had been lost to rain, the rush was unseemly. None of the Worcestershire bowlers took more advantage than Sherryar and Mirza. The latter, 19 and newly-acquired, varied his pace and line intelligently and looked a real prospect, while Sherryar accounted for both openers as they flitted outside the off stump and set the trend for most of the rest.

When Warwickshire came to bowl, Brown also profited, accounting for both openers before the close. Weston held out to long leg, were Motes took a remarkable catch, while Curtis shuffled in front and missed. If the humid conditions persist and the pitch remains as lively, it looks as though another four-day match will finish well inside the allotted time.

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Middlesex

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Durham won toss): Durham have scored 285 for six wickets against Middlesex

DURHAM: First Innings  
J. B. Lewis c Kallis b 38  
S. C. Ecclestone not out 103  
M. N. Latham c Marsh b Fleming 28  
M. E. Treaclock c Marsh b Fleming 10  
M. Barnes c Marsh b Fleming 10  
G. D. Ross c Marsh b Fleming 35  
S. Hetherington not out 1  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A. P. van Tonder, M. Aslam and K. J. Shino to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-73, 3-76, 4-93, 5-148, 6-319

BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips 20-5-74-3, Eatham 24-5-58-2, Fleming 22-1-33-2, Strong 26-6-78-0, Wells 6-2-18-0

Middlesex: J. C. Pooley, J. H. Kallis, M. W. Gatting, C. A. Shah, P. N. Jones, "15 A. Marsh, P. A. Strang, M. J. McCague, B. J. Phillips  
Bonus points: Durham 2 Middlesex 2  
Umpires: B. D. Eastman and M. J. Kitchin

Glamorgan v Northamptonshire

ABERGAVENNY (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire have scored 302 for eight wickets against Glamorgan

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings  
D. J. Curran c Marsh b 159  
R. J. Bailey c Marsh b 42  
M. A. Evans c Marsh b 35  
D. J. Curran not out 1  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A. P. van Tonder, M. Aslam and K. J. Shino to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-73, 3-76, 4-93, 5-148, 6-319

BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips 20-5-74-3, Eatham 24-5-58-2, Fleming 22-1-33-2, Strong 26-6-78-0, Wells 6-2-18-0

Essex v Nottinghamshire

WORKSOP (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex have scored 319 for four wickets against Nottinghamshire

ESSEX: First Innings  
J. P. Johnson c Marsh b 115  
S. C. Ecclestone not out 103  
M. N. Latham c Marsh b Fleming 28  
M. E. Treaclock c Marsh b Fleming 10  
M. Barnes c Marsh b Fleming 10  
G. D. Ross c Marsh b Fleming 35  
S. Hetherington not out 1  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A. P. van Tonder, M. Aslam and K. J. Shino to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-73, 3-76, 4-93, 5-148, 6-319

BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips 20-5-74-3, Eatham 24-5-58-2, Fleming 22-1-33-2, Strong 26-6-78-0, Wells 6-2-18-0

Warwickshire v Worcestershire

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Worcestershire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings  
J. P. Johnson c Marsh b 115  
S. C. Ecclestone not out 103  
M. N. Latham c Marsh b Fleming 28  
M. E. Treaclock c Marsh b Fleming 10  
M. Barnes c Marsh b Fleming 10  
G. D. Ross c Marsh b Fleming 35  
S. Hetherington not out 1  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A. P. van Tonder, M. Aslam and K. J. Shino to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-73, 3-76, 4-93, 5-148, 6-319

BOWLING: McCague 21-0-22-0, Phillips 20-5-74-3, Eatham 24-5-58-2, Fleming 22-1-33-2, Strong 26-6-78-0, Wells 6-2-18-0

Yorkshire v Sussex

SCARBOROUGH (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Yorkshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 17 runs ahead of Sussex

YORKSHIRE: First Innings  
J. P. Johnson c Marsh b 115  
S. C. Ecclestone not out 103  
M. N. Latham c Marsh b Fleming 28  
M. E. Treaclock c Marsh b Fleming 10  
M. Barnes c Marsh b Fleming 10  
G. D. Ross c Marsh b Fleming 35  
S. Hetherington not out 1  
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 8) 11  
Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 336  
A. P. van Tonder, M. Aslam and K. J. Shino to bat.  
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## CRICKET

## Taylor can look back with pride

Michael Henderson pays his tribute to a popular, diplomatic and successful leader

A SERIES that began with one captain under pressure to do the decent thing ends with the other pulling knives out of his back. Michael Henderson is trying to balance the privilege of leading England against the obligation that goes with the job, while Mark Taylor is preparing to take his leave of England for the last time.

Give him a cheerful wave as he departs, for Taylor is a pukka chap who has enjoyed some of the best days of his career against England. He made his first Test hundred at Headingley on the 1989 tour and the century he made at Edgbaston in the first Test of the current series may turn out to be his last at this level.

Five times he has played a full series against England and five times he has been a convincing winner, the last three times as captain. Only one Australian batsman, Bradman, has made more runs in a rubber against England than the 839 Taylor made eight years ago. It is a formidable record.

Of his six hundreds against England, he has made five in this country. The Oval is the only English ground where he has not made a Test century, so he has one final chance to complete an impressive set. Then he will return home, not knowing exactly what the future holds.

"I don't really know what will happen," he said after yesterday's net session. "I'm in a good position at the moment. Things have turned round for me. I have made a few runs and the team has been winning". Just so. It is precisely because the Australian team is so strong, and settled, that the selectors can contemplate demoting Taylor and promoting Steve Waugh.

It seems a good time, therefore, to praise Taylor for the contribution he has made to Australian cricket and to the game in general. He has been a good side from Allan Border, and has helped it to develop into a very good one. Waugh, if it is to be Waugh, will preside over a team that really

is among the finest Australian teams, and one that can become stronger.

As the leader and slip snaffer supreme, Taylor has played a full part in recent successes, but it would be stretching a point to say his batting commands a place. A man who makes 15 Test hundreds and has an average of 42 cannot be a negligible player. Better to say he has done his bit, splendidly, uncomplainingly, and must now allow younger men to do theirs.

At all times, even when people were calling for his head on a silver plate, Taylor has been diplomatic itself. He realises, as Atherton often appears not to, that captaincy means being a master of disguise. You may think the reporter is a buffoon and regard the camera as an encumbrance, but by talking sensibly to one or smiling into the other, you can address the cricketers beyond, who want their team to be properly represented.

At the start of this tour, Taylor was not even getting a back in the doghouse. There was that awful day at Bristol when *The Mirror* dispatched some clown to present him with a three-foot wide bat, to protect his wicket. There must have been times when his patience was stretched almost beyond endurance, but he never did anything to cheapen the office of captain, and that is surely his best testimonial. To be a batting Test captain these days is nothing less than a trial by jury and Taylor can stand down from the dock with no blemish on his record, except the usual failures that flesh is heir to.

Australia have drawn only five of the 32 Tests they have played under Taylor: three were rain-affected and the other two were his first couple, on the slow pitches of Pakistan. Under him, Australia have aspired to be the best and have proved it by playing attractive cricket without behaving improperly. The measure of their success defines the significance of his.



Taylor's cheerful and encouraging style has brought the best out of his side

## England seize back initiative

BY SARAH POTTER

LORD'S (South Africa won toss): England beat South Africa by seven wickets

KIM PRICE followed the South Africa women's first victory over England on Sunday, by winning the toss at Lord's yesterday, however, by electing to bat, she may have surrendered the advantage.

The decision sent a confident signal, but the performance did not. The touring side failed to bat out their 50 overs and were dismissed for 134. Conrad Hunter, their coach, had spoken of the need to control nerves on the big occasion. For his charges, so new to international cricket, they do not come much bigger than this and Lord's, the home of cricket, looked perfect. It was little wonder, then, that South Africa seemed over-awed.

Denise Reid, the left-handed pinch-hitter, fell for only three and Terblanche was bowled by Taylor attempting an ugly leg-side slog, betraying early panic. Only Linda Olivier seemed happy in the middle — her 57 came off 83 balls — but her dismissal, run out after an arrowing throw from Leng,

was symptomatic of the South Africa innings. There were three run-outs in all and it could have been more. Had a third umpire been on duty — the Women's Cricket Association vetoed the idea — he would have been much in demand.

## SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	
L Olivier run out	0
D Reid bowled by Taylor	3
K Price c Hunter b Smithies	18
A Burger c and b Smithies	1
R Stoop c and b Leng	21
A Steadman not out	6
A Krieger run out	11
C Erasmus c Taylor b Raymond	6
A Steadman not out	13
Edms (lb 6, lb 1, w 5, nb 1)	13
Total (48.3 overs)	134
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19 (22.3-75, 4-46, 5-50, 6-62, 7-82, 8-117, 9-133)	
BOWLING: Taylor 6-1-38-1; Reid 5-1-16-1; Smithies 10-3-15-3; Conrad 10-1-22-4; Leng 8-1-21-4; Raymond 7-3-21-1.	
ENGLAND	
C M Edwards bowled	4
H C Pinnar b Steadman	16
B A Daniels run out	53
J B Middleton not out	1
J Caines not out	10
Taylor (lb 2, lb 4, w 4)	57
Total (26 overs, 40.3 overs)	135
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19 (22.3-75, 4-46, 5-50, 6-62, 7-82, 8-117, 9-133)	
BOWLING: Taylor 6-1-38-1; Reid 5-1-16-1; Smithies 10-3-15-3; Conrad 10-1-22-4; Leng 8-1-21-4; Raymond 7-3-21-1.	
Umpires: V Gibbons and A Roberts	

If the previous game was a personal nightmare for Karen Smithies, the England captain, she could be forgiven for thinking that this was a dream. She bowled ten overs for the loss of 15 runs, claiming the wickets of Davies, Price and, with a stunning return catch, Burger.

England, although unchanged, were unrecognisable from the team that could not catch on Sunday and, crucially, the bowlers kept a full length. Yet it was not all plain sailing. The crowd was disappointed when Charlotte Edwards missed out. Her only scoring stroke was a cracking four through point, but she was bowled in the second over after an overconfident drive across the line of a ball by Eksteen that swung late.

Barbara Daniels steadied any jangling nerves by scoring a brisk yet composed 53 and Plimmer chipped in with 16, before the reliable Metcalfe saw England home with an undefeated 49, with 9.3 overs to spare.

## GOLF

## Ballesteros keeps the guessing game going

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

SEVERIANO Ballesteros has as many moods as a diva. There is the broody Ballesteros, when he appears to carry the cares of the world on his shoulders; the elated Ballesteros, as he was when Europe won the Ryder Cup two years ago. The Spaniard can be aloof and querulous, curt and talkative. When he wants to be, he can be colloquial, not in his native language but in English. Rarely is he impolite.

Here at the K Club, where the Smurfit European Open begins this morning, Ballesteros, the Europe captain in the Ryder Cup next month, confounded everybody once again. It is less than two weeks before he has to announce the two men that he will select to complete his team against the United States.

Having missed the cut in the past five tournaments he has entered here and, with his mind filled with details concerning the Ryder Cup, it would not have been a surprise if Ballesteros had been as edgy as he was in Dubai in February, in New Orleans in March, at the Masters in April, at the Volvo PGA in May or at the Irish Open at the beginning of July.

Yet the one certainty about Ballesteros is that he is as hard to read as a book in ancient Greek. The thickets of his

mind are dark and impenetrable. Tom Kite, the captain of the United States team, went through agonies last Sunday night before choosing Lee Janzen and Fred Couples for his team. That being so, it was astonishing to discover that Ballesteros appeared not to have a care in the world. He was positively beaming.

Will Nick Faldo, José María Olazábal or Jesper Parnevik play in the Ryder Cup? The dilemma dominated discus-

sive and there is much to be said for a captain who knows his own mind.

Then he said something that suggests he has the power to see into the future. "If the situation changes," he said, "I have already made up my mind, so I know already what is going to happen. I am the only one. It is a secret and I like to keep the secret until 31 August. I have a very clear picture of the situation and that is it. It was before the US PGA that I decided."

One can surmise that what Ballesteros means is that if he has to select two players from Olazábal, Faldo and Parnevik, it will be Parnevik who will be left out. This would be an eleven successive Ryder Cup for Faldo. If Olazábal gets into the team by qualification, then Ballesteros will select Faldo and Parnevik.

Miguel Ángel Jiménez will be Ballesteros's vice-captain. This is something else that Ballesteros has settled upon. Yet that could change if Jiménez, 21st in the Ryder Cup points table at the moment with two tournaments still to count, qualifies for the team.

The United States team is formidable. If the selection of that team is what has brought Ballesteros such peace of mind at a time when everyone expected him to be racking his brains, then hurry for that.

## RUGBY UNION

## Northampton set sights on Gibbs

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTON, having kept Gregor Townsend on their books, are seeking another British Isles player for their back division. They have offered Swansea £300,000 for the services of Scott Gibbs, though the Wales centre has shown no enthusiasm for moving out of the Principality.

The offer will be considered by the Swansea board today. "We were very upset at the way Northampton went about things originally," Baden Evans, the Welsh club's director of rugby, said after an unofficial approach had been made to Gibbs, "but they have

apologised and made an official approach. The team management does not want him to go and at no time has Scott said he wants to go."

Northampton, who have signed Andrew Blyth, the England A centre, from Newcastle, have four 1997 Lions in their back division and one of 1993 vintage, Ian Hunter. Now that they are assured of the services as director of rugby of Ian McGeechan, his coaching may act as a lure for players such as Gibbs, who have already come under his influence on tour with the Lions.

David Humphreys, the London Irish and Ireland fly half, will miss the exiles' opening Allied Dunbar Premiership first division game against Richmond on Saturday after exacerbating an ankle injury. Sean Burns will play instead, alongside Mark McCall, the Dungannon centre, who makes his debut.

Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, has confirmed his move from Watsonians to Dundee HSE, of the second division. He will join another Lions forward, Tom Smith, and Stewart Campbell at Dundee.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a good piece of reasoning by ex-international Graham Kirby, playing in the Nottinghamshire Teams Final.

Dealer West North-South game IMPs

AKQ9	AKQ9
AKQ8	AKQ8
AKQ7	AKQ7
AKQ6	AKQ6
AKQ5	AKQ5
AKQ4	AKQ4
AKQ3	AKQ3
AKQ2	AKQ2
AKQ1	AKQ1
AKQ0	AKQ0

S	W	N	E
INT	INT	INT	INT
3 NT	3 NT	3 NT	3 NT

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: ten of spades

Showing little sign of pain, declarer played low from dummy on the spade lead. East won the queen and switched to the three of hearts. Declarer correctly falsecarded with the six (leaving open the possibility that he had started with Q76 alone) and Kirby won with the jack. What should he play now?

Kirby could see declarer was likely to have at least a jack of clubs along with the jack of spades and the queen of hearts for his advance to Three No-Trumps. So the question was, should he try to cash hearts or should he attack diamonds? He judged well to do the latter, and in addition found the correct play of the jack. Declarer finessed the queen and East encouraged with the six. Now when the clubs didn't divide declarer had to try to set up a trick in

hearts, but Kirby continued with the king of diamonds to establish the setting tricks there.

The clue to the winning defence was that declarer had played low on the first spade. Kirby saw that if declarer had had only Qxx of hearts, he might well have gone up with the ace of spades and attempted some other line of play. The fact that he played low on the spade was an indication that he was not in danger of losing more than three immediate heart tricks.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181-942 9706.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

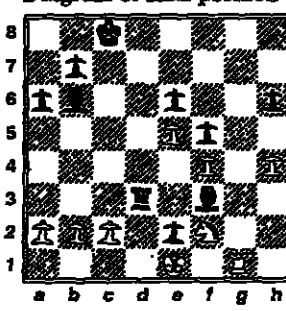
Mind Sports Olympiad In the chess section of the Mind Sports Olympiad, Michael Adams, the co-British champion, leads after six rounds with 5½ points. On five points are Julian Hodgson, Matthew Sadler and Aaron Summerscale. In the following game, Luke McShane, 15, defeats James Plaskett, the former British champion.

White: James Plaskett Black: Luke McShane Mind Sports Olympiad Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nc3	Nf6
5 Nc3	a6
6 Bg5	h6
7 Qc2	Qc6
8 Bxf6	Qxg5
9 f4	Qxg4
10 g4	Qh4+
11 Ke2	Nc6
12 Nf3	Qh5
13 Kf2	d5
14 Bc2	Bc5+
15 Bc2	d4
16 Kf1	Bd7
17 Nd1	0-0-0
18 Nf2	Qe8
19 h4	Qe8
20 Ne5	Bb6
21 Ne3	Bb6
22 e5	Bb6
23 Bf3	Nd5
24 Qc2	Rg8
25 Rg1	Qxg8
26 Rg6	Bxd5
27 Bxd5	Qc3
28 Kd2	Qc3+
29 Rf1	Bg2
30 Ke1	Bf3
31 Rg1	dxc3
32 Qc3	e2
33 Nh1	Qc2
34 Nh2	Rcd8

White resigns

Diagram of final position



## Oriental Chess

In the Chinese Chess section, leading scores after four rounds are as follows:

1-2: F Z Chen (China) and W W Cheung (Hk) 3½, 3-4: H S Ty (China) and P L B Young (Eng) 3.

Meanwhile, after six rounds of the Japanese Chess (Shogi) section, top scores are:

1-2: A Hosking (Eng) and E Cheymol (Fr) 6, 3-4: A van Oosten (Hol), M Sandeman (Eng) and S Lemo (Eng) 4.

## Overall medals table

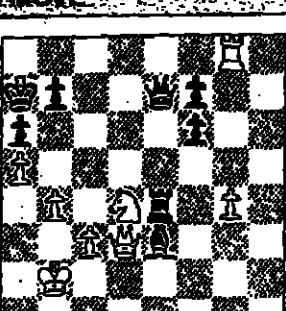
England	2	3	3	1
Barbados	1	0	0	1
United States	1	0	0	1
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Scotland	0	0	1	1

## Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £5.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE



By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Spassky - Petrosian, USSR 1967. In this complex position the white king could become vulnerable but the black king is also very constricted. How did White swiftly capitalise?

Solution on page 42

By Philip Howard

FANK  
a. A job  
b. A coward  
c. A noose

GUERISON  
a. Cure  
b. A gift  
c. A garrison

FORGAR  
a. A foreguard  
b. A seagull  
c. To lose  
GALIPOT  
a. A small saucepan  
b. Resin  
c. A burnboat

Answers on page 42

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## Smith and swimming left immersed in no-win situation

## Golden girl's tarnished image

Michelle Smith's image is in deep water. She is, on the evidence of her glittering medals, simply the greatest athlete in Irish history and the world's finest all-round swimmer. But the world, it seems, has a hard time making up its mind whether she is a winner or a snorer.

When she took gold for the 400 metres individual medley on the first day of the European championships in Seville this week, there was an unbelievably muted reaction — a token slap of applause as most headed silently for the exits. Smith, for her part, ducked out of the post-race press conference, a gesture that has landed her with a warning from the swimming authorities.

The poor girl, it seems, just cannot win. On the facts, she ought to be hailed as the biggest sports hero her country has produced. On the whippers, she is the golden girl that few want to know.

The facts are on the record. At the Olympic Games in Atlanta last summer, she became the first Irishwoman to win a gold medal for any sport. She then took two more golds and a bronze. She did all this at the astonishing age of 26 — astonishing because, by that age, most female swimmers are at least five years past their sell-by date.

Gold medals are rarer than four-leaf clovers in Irish Olympic history. Over a few days in Georgia, Smith single-handedly added more than 50 per cent to her country's haul of Olympic gold — in 70 years of taking part, Ireland had previously secured only five first places.

If ever a sportswoman seemed marketable, it had to be Smith. Dublin-born, with a winning smile and red hair that would cause tumbling out of her swimming cap, she seemed set for a life of fame and fortune, yet she has been virtually shunned by big commercial sponsors.

It all started to turn sour at the Olympic poolside. Her triumphs were challenged by some of the American swimmers, who suggested that her victories would have been impossible without the aid of performance-enhancing drugs. Smith denied such allegations repeatedly, point-



ing out that she has never been found positive in dozens of tests, both in and out of competition. The main reason for the rumours was that Smith apparently swam out of nowhere, improving her times dramatically in the three years leading up to the Olympics. Her improvement in the 400 metres freestyle was especially remarkable and coaches noted that they had seen nothing like it before in a woman who had already reached physical maturity.

Smith also swam into trouble by association. Her coach, who became her boyfriend and then her husband three months before the Games, is Erik de Bruin, a Dutch shot putter and discus thrower. De Bruin was placed under a

**'Fortune beckoned, but she has been shunned'**

four-year suspension when a urine sample taken during a 1993 athletics meeting showed a high level of testosterone.

In an interview that De Bruin gave to the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant* in 1993, he said: "Who says doping is unethical? Who decides what is ethical? Sport is by definition dishonest. Some people are naturally gifted, others have to work very hard. Some people are not going to make it without extra help."

In Holland, steroids, testosterone and human growth hormone, all of which can help an athlete to train harder and build muscle more efficiently, can be bought cheaply and easily.

Smith, who has now taken to using the surname of De Bruin, does credit her husband for her improved performances, but she is adamant that they have nothing to do with drugs.

In 1993, De Bruin radically changed the way that Smith trained. He says that he applied methods used by track and field athletes, particularly increasing her weightlifting work. De Bruin also scheduled more periods of rest into



Smith celebrates a second European championship gold medal in Seville yesterday

her heavy training schedule and experimented with a low-fat diet. So she trains hard and has never failed a drugs test, but the questions refuse to go away.

The problem for Smith, for swimming and for other sports, is one of credibility. All too often these days, whenever gold is won or a record is broken, spectators wonder if they can trust their eyes or their stopwatch. Sadly, Ben Johnson destroyed much more than his own career when he broke the world 100 metres record powered by drugs.

After that, it has been hard to believe any performance that seems too good to be true. The only way forward is to make the procedures for policing drug-taking so convincing that there can be no doubts about innocence.

Here, too, Smith has been perfectly good reasons for her unavailability, but the authorities must come up with policing that leaves no room for doubts. Blood tests would help and they vote on this in January.

Only when their drug procedures are so efficient, so convincing, that anyone who passes them will be known to be blameless will Smith's achievements be hailed as those of a true golden girl. Until then, however fast she swims, however many gold medals she takes away, she and her sport can never win.

that Smith had also been "unavailable" during the "first three-quarters of 1995".

There may have been perfectly good reasons for her unavailability, but the authorities must come up with policing that leaves no room for doubts. Blood tests would help and they vote on this in January.

Only when their drug procedures are so efficient, so convincing, that anyone who passes them will be known to be blameless will Smith's achievements be hailed as those of a true golden girl. Until then, however fast she swims, however many gold medals she takes away, she and her sport can never win.

JOHN BRYANT

has progressed beyond all recognition. De Bruin, the former discus thrower, whose four-year suspension for a positive drugs test expired this month and who apologised last weekend to the European Swimming League for forging his accreditation at the 1995 championships, said that he thought Smith could make further progress at 200 metres, but that the scorching conditions had held her back. It was a sobering assessment from a coach whose swimmer would not have been among the top 200 in the world over 200 metres freestyle four years ago.

Smith had made the final by just 0.03sec, recording 2min 21.55sec — the same as Karen Pickering, of Britain — and had to race in lane one. It

made little difference. After finishing sixth in 2min 1.02sec, Pickering said of Smith: "What can you do? You have to get in and race her. There's speculation about plenty of people. We just don't know if we're racing on a level playing field."

Nonetheless, a new generation is on the march. In the 400 metres medley on the first day here, Smith won by a close margin from a 15-year-old and yesterday the Russian and Romanian who followed her home were aged 16 and 14. Another 16-year-old, Agnes Kovacs, set a European record of 2min 24.90sec, the third-fastest ever and just 0.14sec outside the world record, in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Kovacs, like the great Kristina Egerszegi before her, is coached by László Kiss in Budapest. Yesterday, employing the breaststroke technique named after her country — a high head and hand recovery helping to plunge the swimmer into a long glide, as if every stroke were almost a dive — Kovacs was unassailable.

Racing in the adjoining lane was Jamie King, who, in the morning heats, became the first British woman to dip below 2min 30sec with a national record of 2min 29.91sec. She was unable to match that later, but finished a worthy fifth, with Linda Hindmarsh, Britain's second finalist, eighth in 2min 31.68sec.



The British quartet acclaims victory in Seville yesterday

## Britain strikes relay gold in record time

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

AS performances go, those by the Great Britain men's 4x200 metres freestyle relay team and Michelle Smith at the European swimming championships here yesterday could scarcely have made a greater impact.

Smith, swimming under her

married name of De Bruin, caused jaws to drop with victory in the 200 metres freestyle in 1min 59.93sec, her first international outing over the distance, while the British relay team gave the nation its only title in the event since it was first swum in 1926.

The quartet of James Salter, Paul Palmer, Andrew Clayton and Gavin Meadows won in a

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

**FANK** (a) A coil of rope; a noose. From *fang* a rope leading from the peak of the gaff of a fore-and-aft sail to the rail on each side (used for steadying the gaff).

**GUERISON**

(a) Cure, healing. From the Old French *guarison*, *guarir* to cure. French *guérir*. "You will be able to converse upon a subject which it will be necessary for your guérison not to keep to yourself."

**FORGARE**

(a) To lose. To destroy or corrupt. From the Old English *yearwian* to make lose. "This fellowship has forgared her grace."

**GALIPOT**

(b) The turpentine or resin which exudes from, and hardens upon, the stem of certain pines. From the French, of unknown origin, but perhaps from the Old French *garipot*, a species of pine-tree.

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. b5! Bxd4 (1... a5? 2. Nb5? Ka6? 3. Ne7? mates); 2. Qxd4! Rxd4; 3. b6 checkmate.

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## TELEVISION CHOICE

## Monster history lesson

Leviathan  
BBC2, 7.30pm

Television's latest acquisition from radio is the programme which goes back into the past to illuminate the present. Mark Urban, who presents *Leviathan* on Radio 4, performs the same function here. With the August Bank Holiday coming up he looks at the tradition of the seaside excursion and he uses the 50th anniversary of Indian Independence to recall the acrimony between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. In the other item Michael Fortillo reports on a split in the Tory party which led to 20 years in the wilderness until a colourful leader emerged to create unity and take the party back into government. William Hague will no doubt be relieved that all this happened back in the 19th century. The repeal of the Corn Laws was the source of division and Benjamin Disraeli the party's saviour.

Films of Fire: The Serpent  
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The serpent, in the first of a series of personal films by individuals with axes to grind, is Rupert Murdoch. The proprietor of this newspaper is accused of having a pernicious influence over the media with particular reference to *The Sun* newspaper and Sky Television. The charges are hardly original and Mark Karlin could have settled for making them in a ten-minute talk on radio. But he prefers a bolder and more elaborate framework. At its heart is an alter ego called Dealin (Nicholas Farrell), a Murdoch-hater who while on the train home from work dreams of meeting his pet aversion, with Lenin, on some suburban station. To make his point in an even more allusive way, Karlin invokes Milton and *Paradise Lost*. He also uses a Voice of Reason (supplied by the actress Fiona Shaw), to needle Dealin about his mission of revenge.

Flightpaths to the Gods  
BBC2, 9.25pm

Dr Tony Spawforth, an enthusiastic young archaeologist, travels to Peru in an attempt to explain huge geometric shapes in the Nazca Desert. Although thought to have been started around 400 BC, the Nazca "lines" were not



The presenter Mark Urban (BBC2, 7.30)

rediscovered until 1926 when the first commercial flights were made over the area. In the 1930s came the discovery of large animal drawings, far too big to be recognised from the ground. In the 1960s the findings received an extra twist with the claim that they were evidence of extraterrestrial visitations. Spawforth and his clutch of experts have plenty to investigate. You would not expect a mere television documentary to come up with all the answers but the team gets impressively to the crux of the matter and turns up much fascinating material along the way.

For the Love Of...

Channel 4, 12.25am

Under the usual languid chairmanship of Jon Ronson, six enthusiasts for marine tropical fish gather to discuss their hobby. How many people will bother to stay up to watch them is a good question that is a comment on the scheduling of the programme rather than its content. Perhaps surprisingly, marine tropical fish prove to be a rich subject, with enough areas of contention to keep the talk flowing. The sharp eye will immediately notice that all six contributors are men. It occurs to Ronson and he wonders why. There follows a raft of explanations, which carefully avoid being of any use to women. Then it is on to the fish themselves. The big question is whether they have personalities. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

One Flat Summer  
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Of all the available vices, gambling is the one I have found easiest to avoid, but those who do get caught up in this strange demi-monde are an endless source of material for fiction writers. This new six-part serial, described as a comedy-thriller, is a good example of the genre. It was written by Dave Sheasby and it is set in the summer of 1966, though there are plenty of contemporary echoes. Nor is it really a drama about gambling; the heart of the story is a midlife crisis. Gambling on horses plays its part but the marital strains and the process of ageing. The lead roles are played by Gerard McDermott as Ken Warburton, a man in his fifties just made redundant, and Gillian Bevan as Margaret, his wife.

## RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow Live from Newquay 12.00pm Newsbeat 12.45pm John Peel 2.00pm Noddy Campbell 4.00pm Kevin Gunning 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Radio 1 Live with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Newsbeat 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

## RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Leslie 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Durr 7.00 David Allen's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 8.30pm Newsbeat 8.40pm Radio 2 Live with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Newsbeat 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am Breakfast Programme 9.00am The Magazine 12.00pm Midday with Mel 2.00pm Rascals on Five 4.00pm Julian Worlock Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Spring Partnerships: Michael Doolan and Janie Burgess 8.00pm David Gower's Cricket World 10.00pm Newsbeat 10.30pm Radio 5 Live with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Newsbeat 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

## TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Paul Deasley 7.00 Anne Reebom 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dixon

Going Back: Beneath a Kenyan Sky  
Radio 4, 7.20pm

Documentaries involving a return to the roots are one of the favoured themes in radio, for the reason that, chosen carefully, they can work extremely well. This one is no exception; indeed it is one of the most compelling stories I have heard in a long time. It evokes personal happiness and tragedy in equal measure. Elizabeth Selwyn returns to the Kenyan farm where she grew up, the one shadow over a perfect childhood being that her parents beat the black workers on their farm. The farm was tried for murder but died while in custody. That is traumatic enough, but on this return to Kileleshwa, Elizabeth discovers that it was not her father who was responsible for the murder, but her mother. Peter Barnard

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30am Europe Today 7.15am The World Today 7.30am Meridian Books 8.15am The World Today 8.30am The World Today 8.45am The World Today 8.55am The World Today 9.00am The World Today 9.15am The World Today 9.30am The World Today 9.45am The World Today 10.00am The World Today 10.15am The World Today 10.30am The World Today 10.45am The World Today 11.00am The World Today 11.15am The World Today 11.30am The World Today 11.45am The World Today 12.00am The World Today 12.15am The World Today 12.30am The World Today 12.45am The World Today 1.00am The World Today 1.15am The World Today 1.30am The World Today 1.45am The World Today 1.55am The World Today 2.00am The World Today 2.15am The World Today 2.30am The World Today 2.45am The World Today 2.55am The World Today 3.00am The World Today 3.15am The World Today 3.30am The World Today 3.45am The World Today 3.55am The World Today 4.00am The World Today 4.15am The World Today 4.30am The World Today 4.45am The World Today 4.55am The World Today 5.00am The World Today 5.15am The World Today 5.30am The World Today 5.45am The World Today 5.55am The World Today 6.00am The World Today 6.15am The World Today 6.30am The World Today 6.45am The World Today 6.55am The World Today 7.00am The World Today 7.15am The World Today 7.30am The World Today 7.45am The World Today 7.55am The World Today 8.00am The World Today 8.15am The World Today 8.30am The World Today 8.45am The World Today 8.55am The World Today 9.00am The World Today 9.15am The World Today 9.30am The World Today 9.45am The World Today 9.55am The World Today 10.00am The World Today 10.15am The World Today 10.30am The World Today 10.45am The World Today 10.55am The World Today 11.00am The World Today 11.15am The World Today 11.30am The World Today 11.45am The World Today 11.55am The World Today 12.00am The World Today 12.15am The World Today 12.30am The World Today 12.45am The World Today 1.00am The World Today 1.15am The World Today 1.30am The World Today 1.45am The World Today 1.55am The World Today 2.00am The World Today 2.15am The World Today 2.30am The World Today 2.45am The World Today 2.55am The World Today 3.00am The World Today 3.15am The World Today 3.30am The World Today 3.45am The World Today 3.55am The World Today 4.00am The World Today 4.15am The World Today 4.30am The World Today 4.45am The World Today 4.55am The World Today 5.00am The World Today 5.15am The World Today 5.30am The World Today 5.45am The World Today 5.55am The World Today 6.00am The World Today 6.15am The World Today 6.30am The World Today 6.45am The World Today 6.55am The World Today 7.00am The World Today 7.15am The World Today 7.30am The World Today 7.45am The World Today 7.55am The World Today 8.00am The World Today 8.15am The World Today 8.30am The World Today 8.45am The World Today 8.55am The World Today 9.00am The World Today 9.15am The World Today 9.30am The World Today 9.45am The World Today 9.55am The World Today 10.00am The World Today 10.15am The World Today 10.30am The World Today 10.45am The World Today 10.55am The World Today 11.00am The World Today 11.15am The World Today 11.30am The World Today 11.45am The World Today 11.55am The World Today 12.00am The World Today 12.



# Is it a documentary, or is it a blatant plug?

At last, the waitings over. Just a few more paragraphs to go before you finally savour the much-awaited review of Oasis: Right Here, Right Now (BBC1). It is published here this morning to coincide with today's release of Oasis's third album, *Definitely, Definitely*. Here Now, which has been so spectacularly orchestrated (the songs, not the release, shame on you), can't bear to wait. Okay, here's a little appetiser: writing "taster" painted far too blackly.

Wow! Yes, these are just a few of the catchy, humming words, heavily with 1960s references, that will be in the review, which I repeat — went on sale for the very first time today. The tabloids failed to beg or steal their way into a sneak preview. We even said no to the Virgin Megastore and to J&M — let alone Radio Times — which all pleaded to be allowed to feature snippets of the review on their in-store radio

stations or in their pages, but we didn't want to dilute the impact. "We haven't typed it up properly yet," we explained, although many people misheard that as "We haven't typed it up properly yet."

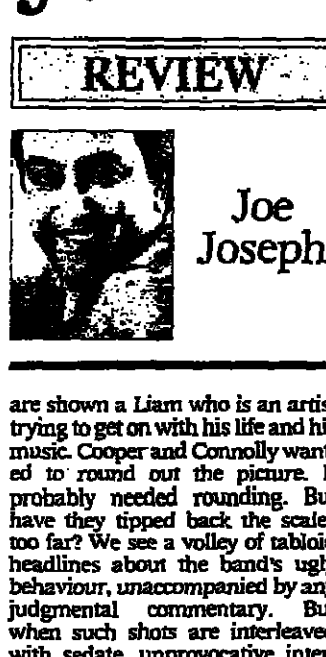
So here goes... OK, it's coming right now. Ready? Here it comes.

Wow! I mean what more can you say about a bunch of guys who have stuck two fingers up to the stifling world of bourgeois conformity, an attitude underlined in the very opening scene of the film when they climb into that age-old symbol of youthful rebellion: their private jet. Oasis has every reason to be pleased with what Mike Connolly, the director, and Mark Cooper, the executive producer, showed us last night. Well, showed us last night. Reviewers were not allowed videotapes, but were summoned instead to a special screening at a West End cinema last week, so that we could better

appreciate the quality of the film and sound (Why?). The millions who watched it at home won't have had this advantage.

The documentary is lovingly made. Connolly's direction frames Liam and Noel Gallagher in poses that have the mood of studio portraits about them. If it all verges on the flattering, this is because Connolly was striving for a handsome film, not because he was in Oasis's pocket. The BBC was given editorial freedom — though Cooper and Connolly won't mind if Oasis is pleased enough with the result to turn to the same team of filmmakers when the band's fourth album is heading for the shops.

The general message? That the bad boys of rock 'n' roll have been painted far too blackly by Britain's tabloids. Instead of the boorish Liam who is so inarticulate that he communicates in hand signals, we



REVIEW

Joe Joseph

are shown a Liam who is an artist trying to get on with his life and his music. Cooper and Connolly wanted to round out the picture. It probably needed rounding. But have they tipped back the scales too far? We see a volley of tabloid headlines about the band's ugly behaviour, unaccompanied by any judgemental commentary. But when such shots are intercut with sedate, unprovocative inter-

views with Liam and Noel, the impression you are left with is that those boorish tabloids have got the stories all wrong. Have they?

Nor is the behind-the-scenes picture so full that we get to see either of the famous Mrs Gallaghers. OK, the documentary-makers wanted to concentrate on the music. But they filmed only three songs. Not many — though enough to prove that Liam has a great voice for rock 'n' roll. We saw just how great when he deserted Oasis when they appeared on MTV: Noel's solo performance at the microphone exposed how samey many of Noel's songs sound without Liam's vocal punch. And for such a rounded picture, this film lacks glimpses of the plonker we know Liam can be, being an outrageous plonker is what makes him a mesmerising star.

Noel comes across as talented and ambitious, though his conversation lacks the fluent, art con-

liners of his hero, John Lennon. He also has a lion-tamer's touch when it comes to whip-cracking his kid brother into his place.

Like sunlight through a cracked venetian blind, bits of the Liam we know sneak through occasionally: "I'm 24 years of age and I'm in the most important rock 'n' roll band in the world... how could I not have fun? I've got a load of money... What am I going to do, sit at home and clip my toenails? You've got to go out and get it."

Which is about all that Liam and Gill Neville are likely to have in common. The search for fun can take queer turns. Neville, the heart-warming subject of *The Day That Changed My Life* (BBC2), was a model at 18. At 32 she was running her own agency. She had ticked off most of life's checklist of glamorous goals. Then, in 1999, she fell in love with an Australian

vet. A few months later she was married and living on his 240-acre beef farm in Dubbo, New South Wales, 250 miles from Sydney.

Her family and friends couldn't believe that Gill could be happier showing her first up a cow than schmoozing in the big city. But, as Liam would say, she's mad for it: "I've only been back home once since we got married. There were grey skies, I caught a cold and got shingles. It was a great relief to get back to Australia."

There was another object lesson on TV: *Tomorrow's World* (BBC1). Having trawled *Tomorrow's World*'s archives, Maggie Philbin asked us: "What do a squash-ball warden, a centrally heated ski pole and a fishing rod that glows in the dark have in common? We backed them all as winners." How tricky it is to predict what will last and what won't, however good it sounds at the time. Somebody warn Liam.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (13179)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (130268)
  - 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1302044)
  - 9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook! (1301334)
  - 9.50am Esther: Are children becoming more aggressive? (1309742)
  - 10.20am Put it to the Test (1304792)
  - 10.45am Regional News (1302688)
  - 10.50am Cricket: Sixth Test — England v Australia — Continue on BBC2 (1305841)
  - 12.30pm Neighbours (1305711)
  - 1.00pm News (1302688)
  - 1.30pm Regional News (1302688)
  - 1.40pm Cricket: Sixth Test — England v Australia — Ball by ball coverage of the second session. Continue on BBC2 (1305841)
  - 4.00pm Pops (1302688)
  - 4.10pm Dinos (1302688)
  - 4.30pm News (1302688)
  - 5.10pm Byker Grove (1302688)
  - 5.35pm Neighbours (1305711)
  - 6.00pm News (1302688)
  - 6.30pm Regional News (1302688)
  - 7.00pm Watchdog: Value for Money Vansessa. Felt scenes for fashionable maternity wear and demonstrates how to create a Victorian bedroom (1302688)
  - 7.30pm EastEnders: Events too sour. What Tiffany hears Phil and Kathy are to accompany them on their break to Paris (1302688)
  - 8.00pm X-Cops: Cameras follow Manchester's Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit as they attempt to cut down on the city's 95,000 annual automobile offences (1302688)
  - 8.30pm Pilgrims: Rest Bob fancies himself as a writer after they send some of his old school essays to a publisher, but they must be written in order to have them printed as a collection (1302688)
  - 9.00pm News: Regional News (1302688)
  - 9.30pm 999 International: Heroic stories introduced by Michael Buck and Juliet Morris, including a diver kept alive by his workmates after being sucked into a sinking ship, a group of travel agents whose plane crash-landed, and a man trapped under the ice of a frozen lake (1302688)
  - 10.25pm Making Babies: Tanya and Ray's Story. The stars of the first series return to update viewers on their quest for an IVF baby, illustrating the pressures and strains of the treatment and its effect on their relationship (1302688)
  - 10.55pm BBC Proms: 97 Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Overture and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade performed by the Royal Philharmonic, conducted by Valery Gergiev (1302688)
  - 12.15am Advance to the Rear (1964, b/w) with Glenn Ford, Melvyn Douglas and Joan Bonnell. A gang of misfits are moved from the fighting during the American Civil War and get involved in various adventures, including saving a gold shipment and capturing a rebel spy. Directed by George Marshall (1302688)
  - 1.45am Weather (1302688)

- 6.00am Open University: Plant Growth Regulators (1302688)
- 6.25am Regulation of Flowering (1302688)
- 6.50am Patterns in Green (1302688)
- 7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (1302688)
- 7.30pm Teletubbies (1302688)
- 7.55pm Trum (1302688)
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# SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 21 1997

## SWIMMING 42

Men's relay team claims gold medal for Britain



Coach pre-empts RFU committee's decision by announcing his departure

# Rowell ends England reign

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby union, which has not been short of crises in recent months, found itself in another yesterday when Jack Rowell, the national coach, resigned from his position. His decision to do so was made public at the same time as the Rugby Football Union national playing committee was meeting to decide whether to renew his contract at the end of this month.

Rowell's announcement, after three years in charge during which England reached the semi-finals of the 1995 World Cup and won in three seasons a five nations' grand slam, championship and triple crown, has been hastened by the RFU's clumsy handling of the issue. He was incensed to discover an approach had been made to Graham Henry, coach of the Auckland Blues, last month and last weekend there was public criticism of him and his chosen captain, Phil de Glanville, by Fran Cotton.

Cotton, vice-chairman (playing) of the RFU management board, was reported in a newspaper article as saying that Ian McGeechan was the only option as full-time coach and, failing that, Rowell as a part-time coach was the only alternative. Rowell, who

## CAREER

ENGLAND: Honours: 1995: five nations' grand slam; fourth place in World Cup 1996: five nations' championship and a triple crown. Record: P 29 W 21 L 8 F 811 A 506.

BATH (1979-1994): Courage Clubs Championship: 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. John Player Cup: 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987. Pilkington Cup: 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994.

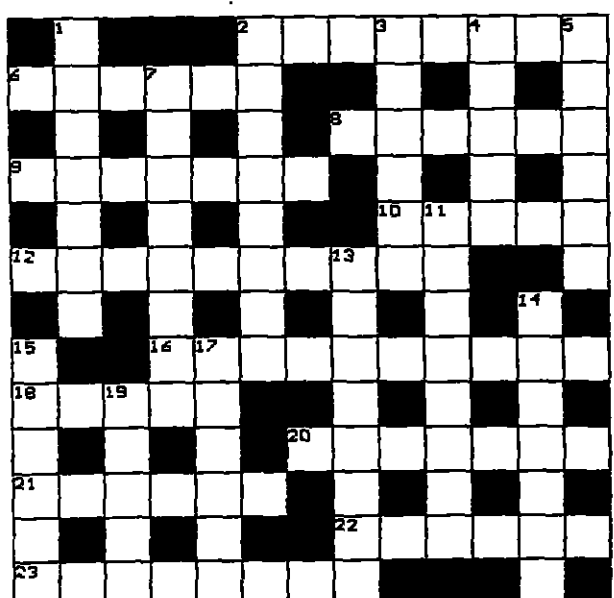
refuses to consider a full-time role because of his extensive business interests, could not help but perceive an absence of support for his continuation to the 1999 World Cup and timed to perfection his riposte. The playing committee.



Rowell confers with his England players at Twickenham

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1178 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



### ACROSS

- 2 Vexed, chivvied (8)
- 6 Group of friends; part of theatre (6)
- 8 Leafy bower (6)
- 9 Forsake (7)
- 10 More than enough (5)
- 12 Rejecting company (10)
- 16 Cut of meat; type of whisker (6,4)
- 18 Weighed down (5)
- 20 Uneasy feeling (7)
- 21 Pardonable offence (6)
- 22 Ship's boat; knife? (4)
- 23 Ability to figure (8)

### DOWN

- 1 30s dance orchestra (3,4)
- 3 One living for pleasure (8)
- 5 Signal receiver (6)
- 4 Bend; sounds like holy water basin (5)
- 5 Lyme Regis county (6)
- 7 A clear soup (8)
- 11 Trader (8)
- 13 Tendency to float (8)
- 14 Trading ship; mat for glass (7)
- 15 Divided (hood) (6)
- 17 Inequitable (6)
- 19 Hard-wearing fabric (5)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 686, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1177  
ACROSS: 1 Dead/beat 5 Weed 9 Kaput 10 Crumple 11 Acronym 12 Belle 13 Leftovers 18 Leapt 20 Anthrax 22 Zamboni 23 Boats 24 Rime 25 Unneeded  
DOWN: 1 Diktat 2 Support 3 Balon 4 Accommodation 6 Explet 7 Deeper 8 Bubble 14 Filter 15 Served 16 Blazer 17 Extend 19 Amman 21 Table

under the chairmanship of Bill Beaumont, whose deliberations have not been made easier by Cotton's comments or by the publicity accorded to the research into possible alternatives made by Don Rutherford, the RFU director of rugby, was informed of Rowell's withdrawal after it had been meeting for an hour yesterday afternoon at the East India Club in London.

Rowell chose to announce his decision via the Press Association rather than direct to a committee that, sources say, met with a view to inviting Rowell to carry on.

"Jack being Jack took the decision clear out of our hands," a member of the committee said. "Maybe it was his idea of getting the last laugh. He has fallen on his sword but did he do it too soon?" Rowell himself was a member of the committee though he was, of course, absent. Cotton attended as an observer and now finds English rugby having to consider a series of untested individuals with only two seasons left before the World Cup. It is understood no second approach will be made to McGeechan, who withdrew from consideration on Monday after Northampton, his club, stipulated compensation of around £500,000.

"I'm sorry that Jack has decided not to be considered further for the position of England coach," Cotton, who crossed swords with Rowell as manager of the British Isles in South Africa during the summer, said.

"He has made an immense contribution to the game and I wish him continued success in his business career."

Beaumont said that a coach was needed who could dedicate more time to the position. Recommendations are due to go before the RFU management board next Friday and may include the suggestion that Roger Uttley — coach to England during the 1991 World Cup — returns as manager.

But if they are not to pay out substantial compensation, their coaching choice is limited. Two coaches not under contract to a club are Clive Woodward, who is involved with Bath and the England under-21 team, and, ironically, Dick Best, who was dismissed by the RFU after Rowell came in as manager in 1994.

Best was replaced by Les Cusworth and Mike Slemen, both of whom are candidates for the coaching position but who share with Rowell a sense of grievance at being undermined by their employers. Cusworth has taken up a five-year role with Worcester and Slemen may choose not to commit himself full-time. Henry, urged on by the New Zealand Rugby Football



Rowell was incensed after learning that approaches had been made to other leading coaches about the England job

Union, has agreed terms with Auckland.

Best, dismissed by Harlequins at the end of last season, said last night: "I have mixed feelings about it because I think the whole business has been handled very badly. It appears the RFU have asked all and sundry if they want the job. I was asked last February what I thought the job was worth — it's a full-time job,

involving not just the elite players but the teams lower down, and I think it's worth £250,000 a year given the intensity of the position."

"But I want to get back to track suit coaching, away from a desk, and I'm out of work. I would be interested if anyone approached me." As it happens, Best's successor at Harlequins, Andy Keast, is as well-qualified as many candi-

dates in England, of whom the leading names include Richard Hill and John Mitchell, both tied into long-term contracts with Gloucester and Sale respectively, the Bath duo, Andy Robinson and Woodward, Rob Smith, who coached Wasps to the league title last season, and Keith Richardson, the Newbury coach who has had extensive experience with England A.

## Plenty still at stake for England

By ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FOR an England player or supporter, aching for success rather than accustomed to it, there is no such thing as a dead Test match. The Ashes may be beyond recall yet again, but England's incentives in the final Test at the Oval, which starts today, are the old virtues of pride, profile and personal profit.

Pride must ensure that England do not submit so meekly as at Trent Bridge a fortnight ago. Profile demands an improvement, for the capacity crowds of this summer will not be perpetuated by constant defeat. Personal profit awaits those who can win a place in the Caribbean this winter by their performances over the next five days.

Then, of course, there is the most intriguing component of this match, the latest and decisive episode in the captaincy saga. Remarkably, we could be about to witness the simultaneous farewells from office of both Michael Atherton and Mark Taylor.

They start from distinctly different positions. Taylor wishes to continue in charge of Australia, but awaits the opinion of his selectors: Atherton already knows he has the support of selectors, players and county captains. Now he just has to convince himself that he wishes to carry on.

"There are many things to take into account," Atherton said yesterday. "I have to ask myself if I am still the right man for the job. If I have still got the same drive and enthusiasm for it, it's all for me to assess at the end of this game."

"If the team is not performing, the captain takes the flak," he said, utterly without self-pity. "I don't shy away from that and never have done. It comes with the territory. If a captain comes to the stage where he doesn't have the support of his dressing room, it is clearly time to stand aside. I don't feel I have reached that point."

Atherton's mind would certainly be cleared by a performance more representative of England's potential than the bad habits into which they have declined during the past month. He could help,

this morning, by winning the toss for the first time in the series.

The latest reshuffle of the batting order — and its extension, with Adam Hobbie now at No 7 — is designed to produce the more competitive totals that England crave, but cannot in itself eradicate the hot-headed sessions in which games regularly slip away from them.

As often as not, this has been the fault of indiscipline by the bowlers rather than the batsmen and England's cause is not helped by another enforced upheaval in this area. Two games ago, at Headingley, England's five bowlers were Gough, Headley, Smith, Ealham and Croft. An entirely different five will see duty today, on a pitch likely to be every bit as good as the one at Nottingham.

Headley, the one possible survivor, continues to be troubled by a bruised right heel, which means that Peter Martin will play his first Test since last June. The absence of Gough, Croft and Cork, so recently the heart and soul of the team, would have been impossible to contemplate at the start of the year. Now, however, England turn again to two men who at least know what it is to bowl the side to victory at the Oval. Phil Tufnell did it in 1991, Devon Malcolm three years later.

For Tufnell, this is a fresh opportunity to establish himself as the No 1 spin bowler — a feat that England have not included two in any home Test this year. For Malcolm, it will surely be a swansong, unless he can recapture one more time the spirit of 1994.

A more appealing scenario for England's future would be the belated breakthrough of Mark Ramprakash. Not many batsmen start a two-day Test match with an average of 16, but Ramprakash is identified as a special case and his domination of county cricket explains why.

No one can prosper on potential alone, however, and this is the time for him to deliver. As Atherton said yesterday: "He has had some disappointments but he must just forget all that. He has to play for the here and now."

## TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (capt), M A Boucher, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, A J Wood, A R Caddick, P J Martin, PGR Turner, D E Malcolm, D W Headley, B C Holmes.

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor (capt), M T G Elton, G S Blewett, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, R T Ponting, I A Healy, S York, S K Warne, M S Kasprowicz, G D McGrath.



Atherton: relaxed

## Sympathy for a 'difficult' coach

By DAVID HANDS

ALTHOUGH Jack Rowell, as an individual and as a coach, tended to polarise opinion, there was broad sympathy for him within English rugby last night. His decision to step down as England coach after three successful years, encompassing a grand slam, a five nations' championship, a triple crown and fourth place in the 1995 World Cup produced support even from those who have found difficulty working with him.

Dick Best, the England coach from 1992 until he was removed after a three months' association with Rowell in 1994, criticised the RFU's management of the affair. "If they were going to talk to people like Ian McGeechan and Graham Henry, Jack should have been told it was going to be a full-time role rather than being left waiting around to see what was decided," Best said.

Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Rugby Partnership, said: "I'm not surprised that Jack has quit. I think the whole affair has been handled very badly. It would be interesting to find out if he chose to quit or was pushed, but I hope he will stay involved with English rugby because he's a very talented individual."

Phil de Glanville, Rowell's nominee as captain in succession to Will Carling last season and whose position must be in considerable doubt, was disappointed but not surprised. "I think that Jack has been debating it in his mind for some time," de Glanville, who played under Rowell at Bath, said.

"It is not a great surprise that he has decided to take this course of action. Jack has had a wonderful career as England coach and everyone who has worked with him will be disappointed that he has decided to go."

"He is a real motivator who knows how to work on people's strengths and weaknesses. I've had a good year as England captain — all I can do now is wait and see what happens."

Mark Regan, the Bath and England hooker, said: "I'm a bit gutted because he's a very good coach and I knew where he was coming from."

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# Islanders turn anger on Governor

## Residents want £10,000 each in compensation

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN OLVESTON, MONTSERRAT

AN ANGRY crowd of more than a hundred people marched on the offices of Frank Savage, the British Governor on volcano-ravaged Montserrat, demanding to know details of an evacuation plan drawn up by London and the local government.

As a menacing grey-black cloud of volcanic ash rose from the Soufrière Hills about five miles away, residents said that they were deeply dissatisfied with the actions of both British and Montserratian officials.

"Can we have a conversation with the Governor? Can we see his face? We are tired of being pushed around," said Julian Romeo, a local businessman who addressed the crowd with a loudspeaker. "We have had enough. We want respect. We need to hear the truth," he added.

A tattered Union Jack hung limply from a flagpole outside Mr Savage's offices.

Some protesters carried cardboard banners asking for "Honesty," "No lies" and "Compensation." Nadine Tuitt, a local hairdresser, wore a T-shirt with the words: "They think we're mushrooms. They keep us in the dark..."

The rumblings of discontent around the island now rival the belching of the volcano. More than half of the 11,500 population have already fled the island, and many of the remaining 4,000 residents are crammed into makeshift shelters with poor sanitary conditions.

After scientists gave a warning that major new eruptions posed a greater threat than originally believed, London at the weekend announced plans for a voluntary evacuation. But that evacuation, due to start yesterday, has been delayed while British and Montserratian officials work out the details. The British destroyer HMS Liverpool is anchored off the north coast ready to help.

But many local people say that, after two years of patient

his offices. A few minutes later Mr Savage emerged, accompanied by Frank Hooper, the island's British police chief, to discuss their grievances.

Mr Savage attempted to calm the crowd, thanking them for coming to see him. Since the volcano first became active a little over two years ago, he said, "we have all been through this together".

"We are working around the clock," he added, saying that he hoped to have a final answer from London "as soon as possible".

The Governor suggested that the delay was due to increased volcanic activity in the past two weeks which had produced "a new situation that is being addressed very quickly".

Bertrand Osborne, Montserrat's Chief Minister, expressed his own frustration in a radio address on Tuesday evening, saying he was "very disappointed" by London's failure to respond faster to proposals for financial assistance to the potential evacuees.

Mr Osborne revealed that his government had asked London for 40,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars (£10,000) in financial aid for every head of household and 70,000 EC dollars for a married couple. Under that proposal a family of four would be entitled to 110,000 EC dollars. He also said his government has requested permission to abolish a local income tax for two years.

Leading article, page 17



A team from HMS Liverpool goes ashore at Montserrat. The destroyer is anchored offshore in readiness for an evacuation of the island

## Britain awaits new wave of refugees

BY ADRIAN LEE AND GLEN OWEN

BRITAIN was yesterday preparing for an influx of refugees from Montserrat. The Government said about 4,000 residents of the colony would be offered a haven in Britain, where normal work permit requirements will be waived and they will qualify for income and housing benefit. The evacuation will be funded from £41.5 million allocated by the Government to the island for relief projects.

Sources on Montserrat said money would be distributed among islanders to cover their subsistence costs. It was proposed that every head of household would get £2,403, each spouse would receive £1,803, with £1,203 for every child. Details of the package had not been agreed last night.

It was expected that the number of islanders accepting the offer would run into hundreds, but many would choose to stay in the Caribbean, hoping to return eventually

to their homes. They are likely to be offered free passage to Britain, where they will join 1,400 compatriots who fled Montserrat earlier.

A fleet of ferries and a 250-seat catamaran was ready last night to take the residents to neighbouring Antigua where they will be greeted by a team from the Department of International Development. The destroyer HMS Liverpool was sitting off the coast of Montserrat in case the evacuation, described by the Foreign Office as "not an

emergency", became urgent. "Some people on Montserrat have lost everything," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "It is too early to say how many of those remaining will choose to come to Britain but the offer is open to all," the spokesman added. "There is no ceiling." It is thought that many will ignore advice to evacuate.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, praised the islanders for remaining "remarkably stoical and calm".

The Soufrière Hills volcano began throwing ash and rock into the air in July 1995, ending 400 years of dormancy. Fresh eruptions this June left at least 19 people dead and earlier this month virtually destroyed Plymouth, the capital.

The remaining population live in the northern third of the island, but emergency living accommodation has been condemned as inadequate, while raw sewage has been dumped in the sea and health care is scanty.

## Giuliani cracks down on police 'brutality'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who has been dubbed a "brutality task force" — yesterday to look into the case of a Haitian immigrant who says he was tortured last week in the locked lavatory of a Brooklyn police precinct.

The man, Abner Louima, has sued the city for \$25 million (£3 million) in compensation for the physical injury, emotional distress and humiliation to his family caused by the alleged brutality, said to have included his being indecently assaulted repeatedly with the wooden handle of a lavatory plunger. Doctors have confirmed that his injuries, which include a ruptured intestine, are consistent with the acts he describes.

The mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, whose political office has been built largely on a foundation of no-nonsense policing, wasted no time in taking action against the officers involved, named as Justin Volpe and Charles Schwarz.

The mayor made sure that they were suspended the day after Mr Louima's story broke. The next day they were charged with aggravated assault and could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty.

Howard Safir, New York's Police Commissioner, swept the tarnished precinct clean: two senior superintendents were reassigned to other jobs, a desk sergeant was suspended, and ten officers in the station at the time of Mr Louima's alleged torture — and who chose not to intervene despite anguished screams — have been confined to desk duties.

His tough response means Mr Giuliani has prevented Mr Louima becoming New York's Rodney King, the black man whose brutal beating in March 1991 by Los Angeles police officers sparked some of America's worst urban violence.

Mr Giuliani, the toughest, most pro-police mayor in New

York's history, did not mince words in his condemnation of the officers, describing the acts alleged as "criminal, barbaric and unworthy of any police officer anywhere". There was no trace of leniency towards a force known in the city as "Giuliani's finest". He made plain that he expected other officers to co-operate in the investigation, and that he would not tolerate a "blue wall of silence".

Mr Giuliani faces re-election in November and is clearly intent on preventing his opponents from beating him with a civil liberties stick. However, a pungent irony will not have been lost on him: as Mr Louima was allegedly being given the "third degree" in New York, members of the city's police were in Fort-au-Prince training the Haitian force in modern, humane policing methods.

The 28-strong committee includes people from the whole gamut of political philosophy.



A scene showing inmates at an Oklahoma prison being forced to lie on the floor

## Jail abuse caught on video

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AN INMATE of a private Texas jail, who was bitten by a dog, shocked with a stun gun and kicked to the crotch by a guard, has found himself on national television thanks to a videotape of his ordeal.

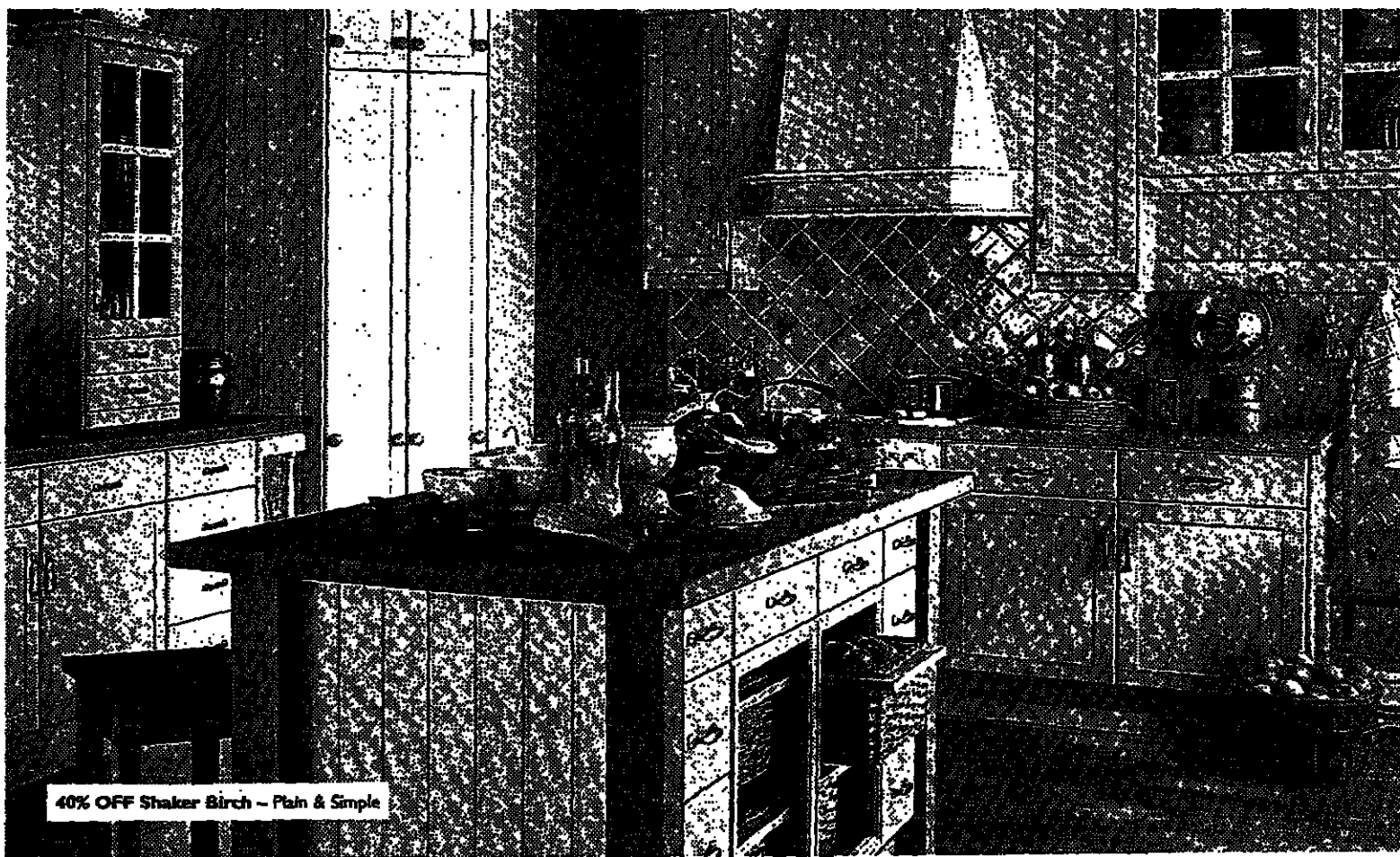
Made for training purposes, the videotape is now the central piece of evidence in an FBI civil rights investigation that has reignited a fierce debate on whether private companies should be allowed to run state prisons.

The video shows the black inmate, who has not been named, screaming in pain as guards allow an albatross to bite him in the leg. He is seen being kicked at least once between the legs. The tape also shows at least one other inmate being attacked by the dog and given electric shocks with a stun gun as he is dragged across the prison floor with a broken ankle. Prison officials visible on the tape include state employees of the Brazoria County

Detention Centre, south of Houston, and at least one guard wearing the uniform of Capital Correctional Resources Inc. (CCRI), a Texas-based corporation that runs private jails and jail wings to accommodate inmates for whom cells are not available in the state prison system. The tape came to light as part of a \$100,000 (£62,000) lawsuit being filed against the centre by an inmate. Lawyers for the jail say they will be "fully vindicated".

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**Dr Thomas Stuttford on paranoid personality disorder; the battle against malaria; the centenary of the aspirin; how heat affects drugs**

## Delusions that turn life into a nightmare

Nicola Pagett, the actress, first became known to a wide public when she starred in the TV series *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Despite her continuing success she realises, in retrospect, that for many years she has had a manic depressive nature; more recently this has reached a stage where urgent medical attention became essential. Ms Pagett has written about her experiences, which included being sectioned (compulsory admission to a psychiatric unit) and since then has been hospitalised on two other occasions. But since Ms Pagett started taking lithium she has remained well, and has not needed hospital treatment again.

Mania and depression can produce many bizarre symptoms which in Ms Pagett's case included paranoid delusions. She was convinced that her husband, Graham, was poisoning her and was also committing incest with their daughter. No amount of reasoned argument, even evidence, was able to convince her that nothing untoward was taking place in her own home. Ms Pagett even believed that her husband was not only poisoning the water in the jug beside her bed, but had introduced poison into the tap of the mains supply.

Paranoia can be a symptom of the effective disorders, commonly described as depression or mania, in which the patient's mood is altered. These patients are frequently unreasonably depressed or absurdly over-

elated. Paranoia is also a frequent symptom in the schizophrenic disorders. Press accounts have made it very obvious that the late Gordon McMaster, the Scottish Labour MP who recently committed suicide, was severely depressed, and that in his case one of its manifestations had been paranoia.

Paranoia is perhaps more difficult to diagnose when it occurs in isolation as part of a personality disorder, and when there is no evidence of other major psychiatric disease in the patient.

Before someone can be said to have a paranoid personality disorder they must show at least four of its characteristic seven features.

The hallmarks of the paranoid personality disorder are:

- a) They must suspect, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting or deceiving them.
- b) The patient must be preoccupied about the loyalty and trustworthiness of friends and associates.
- c) They must be reluctant to confide in others because they fear that any confidences they share may later be used maliciously against them.
- d) The patients are prone to discover hidden, demeaning remarks or threats in perfectly benign comments or everyday events.
- e) These patients bear grudges and do not easily forgive insults or slights.
- f) The patient constantly perceives attacks on his or her character or reputation, and overreacts quickly



Nicola Pagett's delusions plunged her family into a nightmare before successful treatment with lithium

and angrily to them.

g) People with a paranoid personality disorder are often highly suspicious about the fidelity of any sexual partner.

An appraisal of colleagues in any large organisation or friends in the community or even a glance at the gossip bits in a newspaper will immediately reveal candidates for inclusion into the list of sufferers from this disorder. People with paranoid personalities tend to be

worse when they are stressed or ill, and at these times they become even more quarrelsome and suspicious.

Textbooks advise doctors that they should not expect to be trusted or liked by patients with this temperament and experience has apparently shown that they respond better to medical advice if the physician remains slightly aloof.

Patients rarely visit a doctor because they are seeking help with this personality disorder, as few

acknowledge that there is anything very much the matter with their character. If the patient's friends and family are not aware of the personality disorder they may easily be misled into supposing that mutual colleagues and acquaintances are untrustworthy and disloyal, and that the world is every bit as inhospitable as it has been represented.

● *Diamonds 'Behind My Eyes' by Nicola Pagett will be published by Gallancz in September at £9.99*

## Mosquitoes winning, years on

Thousands of holiday-makers and other travellers can visit malarial zones with a reasonable expectation of remaining healthy thanks to the pioneering research of Sir Ronald Ross and Sir Patrick Manson into the life cycle of the malaria parasite, whose existence had first been demonstrated in 1880.

This week, 650 scientists from all over the world have gathered in Hyderabad, south central India, to honour the memory of Ross, and to discuss the latest developments in the control of malaria.

Ross started collaborating with Manson in 1894. In 1897 — the year in which Ross produced his evidence of the life cycle of the malaria parasite and its relation to mosquitoes — Manson, who was also a proponent of the mosquito/malaria theory, became physician and adviser to the Colonial Office.

Ross's life provides a wonderful example to all those embarking on medical studies this year whose A-level results last week may have been rather disappointing. His success illustrates that there is more to being a good doctor than just having an academic brain.

Although he gloried in physics, mathematics and chemistry while at school, Ross did not show any great intellectual prowess while a student at St Bartholomew's hospital, in east London, and a career in the Indian Medical Service at that time was not usually the key to future professional fame.

But despite the lack of any evidence of early brilliance, Ross had become Professor of Tropical Medicine at Liverpool, a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Nobel prize winner for his work on malaria while still in his early forties.

The scientists now gathered in India must wonder when they view Ross's laboratory why it is that 100 years after the historic discovery of the malaria parasite had been unravelled, the disease is still one of the world's biggest killers. The Malaria Foundation has expressed concern about the present state of control of the disease, which causes three million deaths annually, and affects some 495 million people. Attacks, which can recur throughout one's life, weaken the sufferer, and thereby lower his or her resistance to other diseases.

Holidaymakers beware. Malarial zones are still spreading, and the parasite's resistance to drugs is increasing rapidly, largely as a result of unregulated distribution — in many parts of the world anti-malarial drugs are freely available without prescription.

Another problem is that the drugs are often used without supervision. People often feel better soon after starting treatment, and stop taking the drugs without having completed the full course. As a result, resistant strains of parasite survive, and are then transmitted on to the next person.

So far, there is no vaccine against malaria, and the very complexity of the parasite makes it difficult to produce one. Parasites are less stable than viruses and bacteria, and can change even during the course of an infection. These changes may render any vaccine ineffective. In addition, malarial parasites are 'dis-

similar enough that a vaccine which provides immunisation against one variety may not prevent an attack of malaria being brought on by another. Controlling the mosquitoes is also becoming more difficult because the insects' resistance to insecticides is increasing.

Travellers going to a possible malarial zone should consult a clinic that is equipped to offer advice about the best form of protection in the countries they intend to visit.

No drug is 100 per cent efficient, however, and anyone who develops a fever or headache, or feels as though they are suffering from an attack of flu after a visit to a country where malaria is endemic, should see a doctor to arrange blood tests.

Meanwhile, the good news is that Glaxo Wellcome is completing clinical trials of a new drug, Malarone, which is showing every sign of being a useful addition to the anti-malarial pharmaceutical armoury. The new drug is proving helpful in the treatment of some forms of acute malaria, as well as in the prevention of all four types of the disease.

The drug — a mixture of Paludrine, well known to most travellers, and Atovaquone — is a new class of anti-malarial drug that has so far proved too unstable pharmacologically to utilise.



Bite that can bring death

Malarone is described as being 'very clean' in regard to side-effects. Few patients taking it for prophylactic purposes complained of any adverse symptoms, while some of those — usually children — using it to treat malarial attacks experienced very occasional bouts of nausea and vomiting.

Travellers should start taking anti-malarial drugs some days before going overseas, and should continue taking them for at least four — although some would say five — weeks after their return. But anti-malarial drugs are not enough in themselves. Other protection against mosquitoes are also needed, such as netting, down screens and insect repellents. Long sleeves and trousers should be worn day and night.

Younger travellers may be tempted to try less serious varieties of malaria, such as the early symptoms of malaria are not unlike the effect of being 'stuck', both can cause feelings of dizziness, depression, headaches and lethargy, and so an early diagnosis of malaria can be missed.

## Pill gets to heart of the matter

WHILE in India they are celebrating the anniversary of Sir Ronald Ross's research into malaria, in Paris they are holding an exhibition to mark the centenary of the discovery of aspirin.

Aspirin was originally produced as an antipyretic to reduce fever and ease pain, but it is now used to treat or prevent a host of diseases.

Tens of thousands of people take a dose of aspirin each day because of its effect on platelet activity and its power to reduce the risk of heart attacks. The likelihood of further strokes in those who have already had a minor stroke.

Aspirin has been used as first aid treatment after a heart attack for some years. More recently it has been suggested that it will reduce

the brain damage caused by the most common type of stroke.

And the list goes on: aspirin has also been shown to have a protective effect against cataracts, it is useful in treating some forms of recurrent miscarriage, it is valuable in the treatment of many forms of arthritis and SLE, it decreases the risk of colorectal cancer, and prevents recurrent attacks of a painful ulcerative disease, Behcet's syndrome.

Aspirin is not without side effects, including gastro-intestinal inflammation and bleeding. Many patients need to take their aspirin in a coated form, so as to reduce stomach irritation. The standard anti-heart attack dose of aspirin (75 milligrams) is available in an enteric version, Nu-seals.

## As a rule, keep drugs cool

As the temperatures have soared, patients have been reading the small print on their packets of pills and bottles of medicine to check that they won't have been ruined by not being kept at under 25-30 degrees centigrade.

Although drugs should be kept cool, all have been tested at high temperatures, and with a few exceptions a week or two's heatwave will not do any appreciable damage. Nor will a slow delivery in a stuffy van from the manufacturer to the chemist.

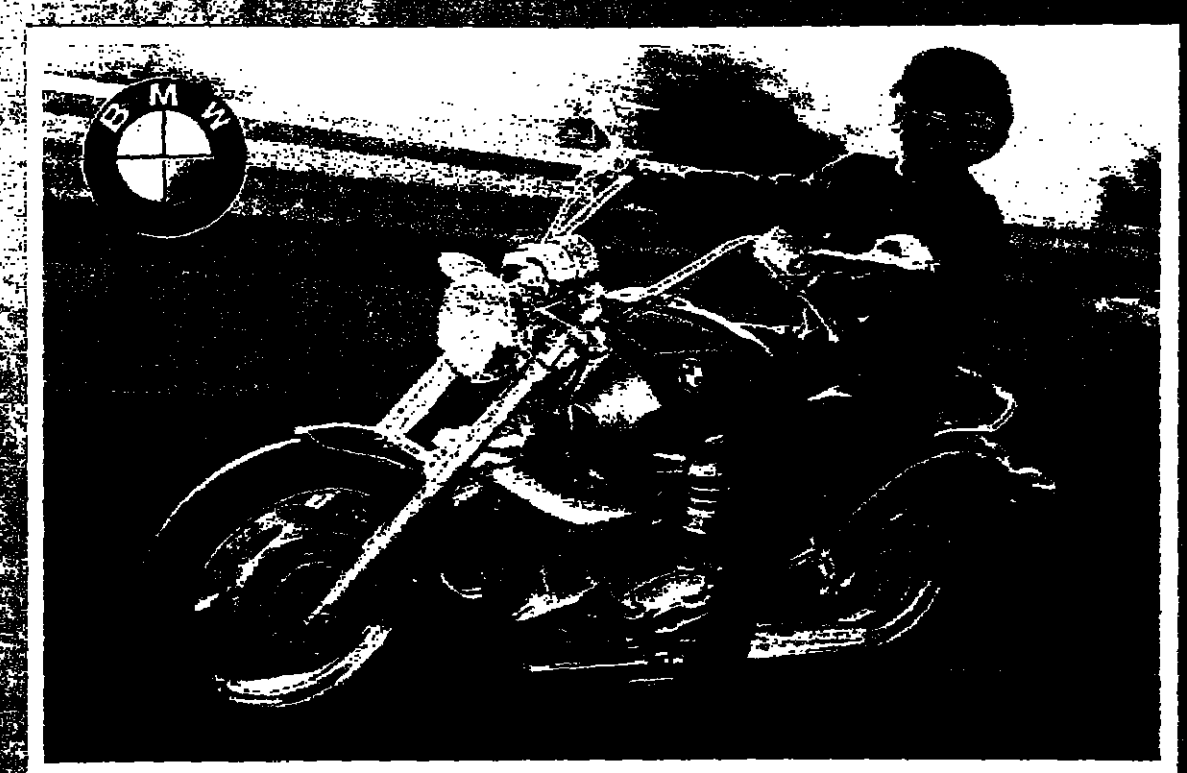
Most drugs are tested to have a shelf-life of five years, and only if they were kept at temperatures above 25-30 degrees centigrade for long periods of time would they degrade faster than expected.

Pharmacists keep some drugs, including liquid antibiotics, insulin and vaccines, in cool, dark surroundings. These products are always transported in a cool van. One drug, glyceryl trinitrate, used to treat angina, loses its effectiveness within days when carried in a pocket.

The standard doctors' advice to patients to keep medicines out of the way of children and in the dark and cool remains good. The refrigerator is ideal, but medicines should not be put in the ice box.

However, those who need to collect a prescription during the heatwave don't need to bankrupt themselves by taking a taxi home. Similarly, most drugs will survive for their full five years, even if this includes a few hot Augusts.

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## Irritable Bowel Syndrome

IBS researchers at the Central Middlesex Hospital are publishing a 16-page report on Women and IBS to raise funds for further research.

Subjects covered include: why more women than men suffer from IBS; how menstruation affects IBS; sexual problems arising in women with IBS; urinary and gut problems associated with IBS; and the links between sexual, physical and verbal abuse and the irritable bowel syndrome in women.

Women and IBS is available for £3.50 from IBS Research Admin Office, Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust (Dept T8), c/o PO Box 18, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1ZY.

Please make cheques payable to IBS Research.







Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn denounces double standards in international morality — from Britain's bombing of Dresden to the tragedy in Yugoslavia

# The march of the hypocrites

In the Computer Age we still live by the law of the Stone Age: the man with the bigger club is right. But we pretend this isn't so. We don't notice or even suspect it — why, surely our morality progresses together with our civilisation. Professional politicians, meanwhile, have deftly covered certain vices with a civilised veneer. In the 20th century we have enriched ourselves with innovations in the field of hypocrisy. We find ever more ingenious ways to apply double (triple? quadruple?) standards.

The bloody Yugoslav tragedy has unfolded before our eyes (and is it over yet?). To be sure, blame for it lies with the Communist coterie of Josip Broz Tito, which imposed an arbitrary pattern of internal borders upon the country, trampling on ethnic common sense, and even relocating ethnic masses by force. Yet blame lies also with the venerable community of Western leaders, who — with an angelic naïveté — took those false borders seriously, and then hastened at a moment's notice, in a day or two, to recognise the independence of several breakaway republics whose political formation they apparently found to be advantageous. It was these leaders, then, who nudged Yugoslavia toward many grueling years of civil war; and their position, declared as neutral, was by no means such.

Yugoslavia, with its seven estranged peoples, was told to fall

apart as soon as possible. But Bosnia, with its three estranged peoples and vivid memories of Hitlerite Croatians slaughtering up to a million Serbs, had to remain united at all costs — the particular insistence of the United States Government. Who can explain the disparity of such an approach?

Another example: the Trans-Dniester Republic and Abkhazia were deemed illegitimate simply because they were "self-proclaimed". But which of the CIS countries was not "self-proclaimed"? Kazakhstan? Ukraine? They were immediately and unconditionally recognised as legitimate, even democratic (and the "Ukrainian Popular Self-Defence" Brown-shirts continue to march about freely, torches and all). Did not the United States also "self-proclaim" their independence? Meanwhile, the Kurds are not allowed even to self-proclaim. When they are not being squashed by Iraq, with the tacit consent of the United States, then they are being smashed by Nato member Turkey even on non-Turkish territory, while the whole civilised world looks on with utter indifference. Are the Kurds a "superfluous nation" on this earth? Or take the Crimea and the port city of Sevastopol. Any sober mind

on either side would at least agree that the Crimean question is very complex, whereas Ukraine's claim to Sevastopol has no legal base. Yet the US State Department, choosing not to trouble itself with the history of the matter, has continued to assert authoritatively, for six years running, that both the Crimea and Sevastopol are unequivocally the property of Ukraine, end of discussion. Would it presume to speak so categorically on, say, the future of Northern Ireland?

Still another accomplishment of political hypocrisy is apparent in the way in which we conduct "war crimes tribunals". Wars, for thousands of years, have always been aggravated on both sides by crimes and injustices. In hopes that a just reason might prevail, in order to make sense of war and to punish evil passions and evil deeds, Russia proposed The Hague Convention of 1899.

Yet no sooner did the first war crimes trial take place — the Nazis at Nuremberg — than we saw, elevated high upon the judges' bench, the unblemished administrators of a justice system that during those same years handed over to torture, execution and untimely death tens of millions of

innocent lives in its own country.

And if we continue to differentiate between the always inevitable deaths of soldiers at war and the mass killings of undoubtedly peaceful citizens, then by what name shall we call those who, in a matter of minutes, burnt to death 140,000 civilians at Hiroshima alone — justifying the act with the astounding words, "to save the lives of our soldiers"? That President and his entourage were never subjected to trial, and they are remembered as worthy victors. And how shall we name those who, with victory fully in hand, dispatched a two-day wave of fighter bombers to reduce to ashes beautiful Dresden, a civilian city teeming with refugees? The death toll was not far below Hiroshima, and two orders of magnitude greater than at Coventry. The Coventry bombing, however, was condemned in trial, while the Air Marshal who directed the bombing of Dresden was not only spared the brand of "war criminal", but towers over the British capital in a monument as a national hero.

In an age marked by such a flourishing of jurisprudence, we ought to see clearly that a well-considered international law is a law which justly punishes crim-

nals irrespective — irrespective — of their side's victory or defeat. No such law has yet been created; found a firm footing, or been universally recognised. It follows, then, that The Hague tribunal still lacks sufficient legal authority with respect to its accused and might on occasion lack impartiality. If so, its verdicts would constitute reprisal, not justice. For all the numerous corpses of civilians uncovered in Bosnia, from all the warring parties, no suspects seem to have been found from the safeguarded Muslim side. Finally we might mention this remarkable tactic: The Hague tribunal now hands down indictments in secret, not announcing them publicly. Somewhere, the accused is summoned on a civil matter, and immediately captured — a method beyond even the Inquisition, more worthy of barbarians, circa 3,000 BC.

Perusing the world map, we find many examples of today's hypocritical double standard. Here is but one more. In the Euro-American camp, all sorts of integration and partnership are cultivated and nurtured, stretching over lands on the periphery of this space, like Ukraine, willing, even to incorporate faraway Central Asia. At the same time, all sorts of political

interference and economic pressure are vigilantly applied in order to derail the very plan of a rapprochement between Belarus and Russia.

And what of Nato allies who surely will remain apathetic and useless vis-à-vis the Alliance's global, non-European aims. It is either the traditional Cold War hypnosis, impairing one's ability to see the powerlessness of Russia, beset by internal troubles. Or, on the contrary, it is extreme far-sightedness on the part of Nato's leaders. Should the high-tariff strangling of Russian exports (except for coercively cheap natural resource exports) prove insufficient should the implacable dictate of Russian internal policy (bundled with loans that only enfeeble) prove insufficient as well; there will now be, in reserve, the "neutralisation" of Russia into a comatose state.

I have not the means to guess whether Russia's current leaders understand this. Most likely they do not witness their own clumsy participation in that elegant new phenomenon of the "peacekeeping forces" in Bosnia or Tajikistan; or their confused, lost policies regarding the CIS countries, or their doomed attempts to hold on to Chechnya, with reckless disregard

for the human cost; witness, finally, their blind inability to find a reasonable and just solution to the controversy over the Kuril Islands. They see themselves at the helm of the ship of Russian history, but they are not. They do not direct the course of events.

As for those who do, their plans to establish a "final worldwide security" are ephemeral as well. Given human nature we ought never to attain such security. It would be futile, at the very least, to march towards this goal armed with hypocrisy and scheming short-term calculations, as practised by a revolving door of officials and by the powerful financial circles that back them. Nor can security be bought with any new technical "superintervention" — for no secret lasts. Only if the creative and active forces of mankind dedicate themselves to finding gradual and effective restraints against the evil facets of human nature to an elevation of our moral consciousness — only then will a faint, distant hope exist. To embark upon this path, and to walk it, requires a patient, pure heart and the wisdom and willingness to place constraints on one's own side, to limit oneself even before limiting others. But today that path only elicits an ironic chuckle, if not open ridicule.

If so, don't bother calling for "world security".

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## Mother of all mothers

Daniel Johnson on the Virgin, the Pope and the petition

On long car journeys my family sometimes listens to a tape of Pope John Paul II reciting the Rosary in Latin. Central to this long sequence of prayers is the Hail Mary. We often joke that this papal litany is an infallible method of getting fractious children in the back seat to doze off. *Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum...* But the incantatory beauty of these syllables — uttered countless times since the 11th century and now reiterated in a gravelly Polish *basso profundo* — speak to the child in each and every one of us. We all have had mothers, and Mary is the mother of all mothers.

It is reported that some four million Roman Catholics, including Mother Teresa, are petitioning the Pope to sanction the elevation of the Blessed Virgin to "Co-Redemptrix" with her Son. I cannot see a need further to exalt the status of Our Lady, whom not only Roman Catholics but many other Christians already venerate as "Mother of God". But I am not shocked by Marian piety — provided that nobody misunderstands "co-redemptor" to mean that the Holy Trinity was really a quartet. That would be heresy.

Some Protestants have always accused Catholics of Mariolatry. This is to confuse worship with intercession. Worse are the Catholics guilty of this when they should know better. When a Filipino priest told our congregation that Mary could deliver anything we prayed for, he risked just such confusion. But the petitioners' demand that Mary be recognised as the "Mediatrix of All Graces and Advocate of the People of God" does not contradict Catholic doctrine.

Precisely because she is not divine but human, Mary seems more approachable than Christ Himself. If Our Lord brings salvation to mankind, it is Our Lady who comforts us in our troubles. This warm, familiar quality appeals especially to our inhospitable modern world. The great Marian shrines — Walsingham, Guadalupe, Fatima, Lourdes, and now Medjugorje — have replaced

those of other saints as the principal places of pilgrimage. The two doctrines that define modern Mariology — the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption — are ancient traditions but were declared articles of faith only in the past 150 years. They are of far greater significance than the question of co-redemption, which would be merely a refinement of doctrine.

Papal infallibility does not give John Paul II a free hand to alter the established teachings of his predecessors and the ecumenical councils. On the contrary: he is bound not to anticipate the evolving consensus of the Church. In Vatican circles most doubt that he is preparing a new Millennial Marian dogma.

Yet the Pope does see Mary as fundamental to the survival of the Church in a secular age, hostile to the family and dominated by extremes of materialism and feminism. His devotion to Our Lady is well-known, though little understood in Protestant Britain.

One can interpret Wojtyla's devotion psychologically. He lost his mother very young; his father, a professional soldier, was deeply pious. Polish servicemen are particularly devoted to the Virgin, and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa has long been a patriotic as well as a religious symbol. As a Polish intellectual, Wojtyla was lucky to survive the Nazi occupation, working in a labour camp while secretly training to be a priest. Scarcely less grim was the Communist era. Is it any wonder that the Church became his family and Mary his mother?

But one cannot reduce religion to psychology. The Madonna is the Christian image of what Goethe meant by "the eternal feminine". Amid so much *odium theologum*, let us not forget Mary herself: that extraordinary Jewish maiden, who responded to the Annunciation with sublime words of humility: "My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour." She at least knew her place in the divine order.

## Europe's President in waiting

Britain has a prime candidate for the EU's unlikely appointment

Jack Lang is no longer the figure he once was in French politics. There was a time when, as Minister for Culture under Mitterrand, he was the cover picture on news magazines, typifying Socialist triumphalism in the arts. Now he has been left out of Lionel Jospin's administration, probably wisely, and resents it. He has found a perch as president of the foreign affairs committee of the French Assembly, normally a position of more influence than power. Nevertheless, he still has the aura which politicians who were once big figures sometimes retain: no one is quite sure that the volcano is entirely extinct.

On Monday, the volcano emitted a suspicious cloud of sulphur. Jack Lang disturbed the quiet of August in Paris by publishing a "point of view" article in *Le Monde*. It was headed: "Je ne voterai pas le traité d'Amsterdam." Admittedly this bold statement was almost immediately qualified: he will not vote for the Treaty of Amsterdam in its present form. Like all experienced politicians, he leaves himself an exit. He does, however, claim to have allies, at least in other parliaments of the European Union.

M Lang finds the Treaty of Amsterdam unacceptable because it does not go far enough. He accuses the treaty of abandoning the European ambition. "In contrast to an America which is vigorous, creative and conquering, Europe offers a spectacle of inertia." He fears the very thing which many British Eurosceptics hope — that Amsterdam will lead to the triumph of the ultra-liberal Europe of Madame Thatcher over the Europe of the will. This phrase, "l'Europe de la volonté", has an unpleasant ring to it: it reminds one of Leni Riefenstahl's *The Triumph of the Will*, the film which celebrated the Nuremberg rally.

Eurosceptics will get little comfort from the article as a whole. Although Lang holds

out an ultra-liberal Thatcherite Europe as a bogey for the French, he is much more convincing when he writes about the actual achievements of the Euro-federalists. "With entry to the euro, more than half the road towards the United States of Europe will have been traversed. Four European institutions will, in effect, have been given a status which is federal or quasi-federal: the Central Bank, the Court of Justice, the Commission and, in part, the European Parliament." This is the truth, and apart from the democratic fig leaf of the European Parliament, the weakest of these four institutions, they are appointed and bureaucratic, not democratic, bodies.

Jack Lang wants to create a European federal government, "a true executive". In order to develop such a new constitution for Europe, he would first like to see the appointment of a person "chosen by common accord" — whatever that may mean — to undertake informal contacts, "far from the cameras".

This person would create "the basis of a new construction". He then wants, as a second stage, a European constitutional convention, "composed of the delegates of the people, of the states, and of economic and social organisations".

These proposals are far from being an open democratic approach to a new European constitution. "M Europe", will, it seems, be chosen by a mysterious process and operate by mysterious means. There has already been too much secrecy about the building of Europe and it has created mistrust. It sounds very well to talk about negotiating a European constitution "far from the cameras", because television is a suspect medium, but it means that the negotiations will also be far from the people. A convention where "economic and social organisations" play a significant role sounds rather like Mussolini's Fascist Grand Council.



This article shows the gap that exists between British and French opinion. We do, of course, have our own Euro-federalists who want a United States of Europe, though only a minority of them admit it. Many of them might support the idea of a European constitutional convention, yet a secret negotiation, followed by a less than fully representative convention, would be unacceptable even to most of them. These issues are far too important to be debated "discreetly and informally", rather than democratically and publicly.

Jack Lang compares his proposed convention to the late 18th-century Convention of Philadelphia, which created the Constitution of the United States. The American Constitution is much more democratic than anything Europe yet has. The European constitution, as it has emerged so far, is largely bureaucratic. In the United States, the President is elected by all the people; the European Union has no President, but the President of the Commission is appointed by the governments. Both the

United States and Europe have an appointed Supreme Court and Central Bank: these are non-democratic bodies of extensive political powers. Europe has a Parliament of limited powers, whose membership is largely determined by the less than democratic party list system. The United States has a much more powerful Congress, of two houses whose membership is ultimately determined by the fully democratic system of party primaries.

The people of Europe cannot dismiss the Government of the European Union; the American people can and regularly do dismiss their Presidents, and change control of either or both Houses of Congress. Even on the most important matters, such as the transfer of powers from the democratic national governments to the European Union, it is not customary to consult the European people. Only three of the countries of the EU — France, Denmark and Ireland — had a popular referen-

dum on the Maastricht treaty. The refusal of a British referendum on Maastricht was an insult to democracy, for which the old Conservative Government and the Labour Opposition shared responsibility. In his important pamphlet on *The Creation and Destruction of EMU*, Walter Eillis quotes Bismarck's view of universal suffrage as "government of a house by its nursery. But you can do anything with children." After 1945, under strong American influence, the individual nations of the new Europe rebuilt their constitutions on democratic principles. Democracy replaced Fascism in Italy, the Vichy Government in France, the Nazi regime in Germany and eventually the Franco regime in Spain. All 15 members of the European Union, as individual nations, are democracies. But the European Union itself is not: it has been bureaucratic from the beginning, and it has not become significantly less bureaucratic as time has passed. In the unlikely event that Europe decided to have an elected President, to redress the democratic deficit, who might it be? Not a German, the first time — Chancellor Kohl is too old and the voters would fear German power; not a man of the Right — European politics is still swinging towards centrist Social Democrats; able to speak good English, the first language of one section of the electorate, and the second language in the other nations; fluent in at least one other major language, preferably French; bridging the Catholic-Protestant divide, while appealing to Christian voters in all countries; under 50, to represent the Europe of youth; with charismatic electioneering skills and a strong power base at home. Whose face swims up as the most likely to be the first elected President of the European Union if Jack Lang ever gets his European Philadelphia? None other than that of Britain's favourite son, our own, our very own, George Washington Blair. Might that not be yet another triumph for the dreaded Anglo Saxons?

## Fast Lady

THE macho world of powerboat racing is in a spin. Fiona Countess of Arran is to come out of retirement for this weekend's world cup at Cowes. She is 79. Lady Arran once drove offshore powerboats so fast that onlookers would remark that they appeared to be flying. She

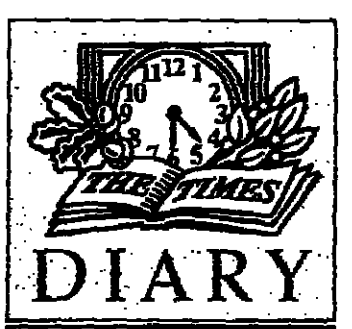


Lady Arran: water sport

set a string of records, including being the first woman to maintain a speed of 100mph for the length of Windermere.

Lady Arran hung up her lifejacket almost a decade ago and in recent years has been fighting Parkinson's disease. However, she tired of sitting watching the wallabies trim the verges at her Hertfordshire home and wanted to see some action again. Accompanied only by a navigator, she will take the wheel of her boat, *Hopscorech*, at the National Express Cowes Classic. Depending on how she feels, she will compete in either a 60-mile circuit of the Isle of Wight, or the 36-mile and 90-mile races that comprise the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat World Cup.

"I got so bored with doing nothing that I thought I would go boating again. It's a bit of enjoyment," she breezes. "It would be nice if it's calm and flat. I've seen a bit of rough and been turned over



once or twice. The nice thing about the sea is that anything can happen." Lady Arran, who took her son, the Earl of Arran, and his family for a very wet practice run the other day, seems to have a slightly different concept of speed from other people. "Oh we won't be going very fast at all, just 50 miles per hour."

### New image

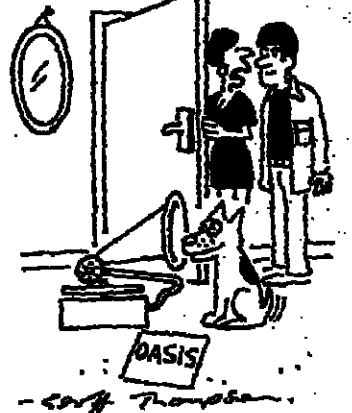
LATEST to join the ranks of British magazine editors is snapper-by-royal appointment, the Earl of

Snowdon, who has been asked to edit an edition of *Country Life* in November. "It's terribly exciting," says Snowdon, who has already drawn up dummy proofs in the office at his West London home. "I've been told to stay within a budget, but otherwise I can do whatever I like. I've always had a soft spot for *Country Life* since they published one of my photographs in 1951." Regular readers should brace themselves for an editorial shake-up. "It will just be one delicious surprise," he says.

### Cover story

AS swarms of Oasis fans get over-excited about the band's new album released today, Pringle-clad members of a country club in Hertfordshire are bracing themselves for an invasion. The cover of *Be Here Now* features Stocks Hotel, in Aldbury, near Tring, which used to be a rockers' hangout when it was owned by the Playboytown Victor Lowmes. Now it is home to corporate conferences, and lots of hairy Oasis fans will be welcome only if

they are prepared to pay £120 a night for a room. "We are very jealous of our privacy here," says Stocks's chairman Neil List. Nevertheless, the hotel is planning to market the bedroom where Liam and Patsy stayed in a similar way to the four-poster honeymoon suite at the Crown Hotel, in Amersham. It was there that Hugh Grant and



"You spoil that dog"

Andie MacDowell took a tumble in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. The room is booked up for years ahead.

● August has brought no respite from humiliation for Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary. In June he had to contend with the criticisms of Ann Widdecombe, the former Prisons Minister, who accused him of having "something of the night" in his personality. Beleaguering him this month is Florence Amess, aged five, daughter of the Tory MP David Amess. When Widdecombe presented her with a black Labrador puppy this week, she declared to her father's delight: "I'm going to call it Michael."

### Mail shot

ROSS BENSON, who is parting company with *The Express* after 24 years, is understood to be on the verge of signing up with the paper's arch rival, the *Daily Mail*. Insiders are saying that his new job as a feature writer will be rather less ex-

citing than the roving role he lastly enjoyed at *The Express*. Certainly it will be less glamorous than running the *Diary*, which he did for many years. Most interesting to watch will be the relationship between the magnificently coiffured Benson and bawling Nigel Dempster, with whom he had many spats in print when the two were rival diarists. "I will treat him with kid gloves and welcome him with a caviar and lobster lunch," says Dempster. "He is no longer a rival."

● There is an endearing realism about the cast of George Bernard Shaw's comedy *Misalliance*, which opened on Tuesday night at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Playing Hyacinth, the daughter of a Leeds underwear manufacturer, is Harriet Woodliff. Her credit line: "She is the daughter of Stanley Woodliff, also a Leeds underwear manufacturer. The link never occurred to me until I had got the role, and Dad pointed it out." Harriet says.

P.H.S.





## ARAFAT'S TWO FACES

The weak politician and the covert warrior

Israel's already stormy political horizon darkened dramatically yesterday. Israel retaliated against Hezbollah rocket barrages on Galilee with its biggest air strike on Lebanon in 16 months, cutting electricity to Sidon, and putting the 1996 accord that ended Israel's last Lebanon offensive to its toughest test to date. In Gaza, it was Yasser Arafat who turned up the political pressure, embracing leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in a "national unity meeting".

The difference between these two incidents is that while Israel insists that it acted only under extreme provocation and that its aim is to return peace to the Lebanese frontier, Mr Arafat's action was calculated to inflame. It would have been so at any time, but in the wake of the lethal suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda marketplace, the Palestinian leader has been under intense and wholly legitimate pressure to denounce terrorist activity. The question is why this master of gesture politics has chosen instead to recall the infamy of years and declare, before such an audience, that "all options are open". Mr Arafat's spokesman denied that this was a call for violence, only a declaration that Palestinians must confront Israel "in whatever way they could". The implied distinction will be undetectable to most Palestinians, and invisible to most Israelis.

One possible explanation is that Mr Arafat senses that a public act of defiance is necessary for political survival, so steeply has popular support for him been declining among Palestinians; and even that it is the more necessary because in practice, he sees no alternative to tighter co-operation with Israel and America on security matters. This was, in other words, a bit of tactical weaving by a weak politician, under fire both for his administration's corruption and human rights abuses and for the miserable failure of the halting negotiations with Israel to improve Palestinians' lives.

Mr Arafat was, on this reading, politically on the ropes before the Jerusalem bomb, standing accused by his own people of

maladministration and cronyism so flagrant that nearly half the Palestinian Authority budget had disappeared into the pockets of an exploitative few. Israel's iron response to the bombings gave him an opportunity to deflect the blame, and he has seized it.

The other possibility is, of course, that while Mr Arafat insists that he will not tolerate lawlessness any more than he will head under Israeli pressure, he remains ambivalent about the legitimacy of the "armed struggle" that Israelis live with as terrorism. Four years after he and Yitzhak Rabin shook hands at the White House, he has still not dispelled that element of doubt.

His police took a tough stance at one point against Hamas terrorists, but some of those convicted escaped jail with suspicious ease and over a hundred have been released. If, today, he rejects Benjamin Netanyahu's angry demand that he arrest known extremists, "collect their guns and dismantle their bomb factories" and vows to stand by "our brethren", it is not clear whether he does so because he dares not act or because he still sees the bomb as a weapon of diplomacy. That is what Israel now has to test.

Reading Mr Arafat's lips has always been less rewarding than watching his feet. If his officials, however quietly, set to work within the trilateral security framework with Israel and America recently drawn up by the US special envoy, Dennis Ross, Israel should then address some genuine Palestinian grievances. Joblessness ranks high among these: a good reason for Mr Netanyahu to reopen the borders to Palestinian workers as soon as Israeli Intelligence judges it safe. He should immediately render to the Palestinian Authority \$46 million in tax revenues legally owed by Israel. This was an unwise retaliatory measure which gives credence to Palestinian claims to be the victims of "collective punishment". Mr Arafat's rhetoric will harden Israel against concessions; but it is in Israel's interests to lower the misery index which has helped Hamas to raise its level of support in the West Bank and Gaza to a deeply troubling 25 per cent.

## BOOMERS AND BUSTERS

Today's toddlers may bear the biggest pension burden of all

When the 1947 baby boom caught planners by surprise, prefabricated classrooms had to house the extra 100,000 infants. The equivalent of an additional 100,000 pupils in school. The second baby boom, from 1961 to 1971 — happened more gradually, allowing educationists to cope. But are policy-makers thinking hard enough about the longer-term future of these people? A new study, *Baby Boomers: Ageing in the 21st Century*, from Age Concern, predicts that retirement for today's twenty to thirtysomethings could be precarious unless they start planning for it now.

For their parents' generation, life was comparatively secure. Though born into an age of austerity, during and after the War, they could look forward to high employment and lifetime jobs with predictable promotions. The nurturing embrace of the cradle-to-grave welfare state protected them against the vicissitudes of life. In old age, they were likely to have both a spouse and children to help to care for them.

People born in the 1960s, while they were reared in an age of prosperity, entered the labour market at a time of recession. Technological change and global competition have only made employment more insecure. No longer are there jobs for life, and neither the employer nor the State is likely to take on a paternalistic role.

If members of this generation have to fend for themselves at work, they are also increasingly likely to have to do so at home. A higher proportion will remain single or, if married, will divorce. Many fewer will have

children, and those who do will have fewer children. Of today's old and infirm people, 93 per cent seek help from relatives. But when the baby boomers become old and frail, their daughters (for women tend to take on the responsibility) are more likely to be working full-time and unable to help.

Altogether, there will be a much higher number of retired people compared with the working population expected to support them, not just because of the 1960s boom in births, but because of the relatively small size of succeeding generations. By 2020, there will be six people over retirement age for every ten of working age. In 1991, the ratio was just three to ten. That suggests not just fewer carers, but fewer taxpayers willing to fund the greater demands on the NHS and long-term care of the elderly.

The picture is not entirely bleak, for this baby-boom generation is more likely to have second pensions, either occupational or private, and own a house. They may be able to afford to pay for more care out of their own pockets. But they will also have experienced more fragmented employment than their parents, with greater emphasis on temporary, freelance and part-time work.

This will be a generation reared on high expectations and an awareness of consumer rights. By 2021, the proportion of the electorate that is retired will have risen from a quarter to a third. If they manage to capture the political agenda and achieve higher public spending on the old funded by taxes, it could be their children, the toddlers of today, who bear the biggest burden of all.

## DEBT OF HONOUR

Montserrat deserves more than a gunboat and food parcels

The Government may have sent a gunboat to the Caribbean island of Montserrat but there is precious little else. Palmerstonian about its response to the plight of British subjects there. For the thousands on Montserrat whose homes have been consumed by the volcanic eruption on the island the support from the Government responsible for their welfare has been feeble. The £41.5 million spent so far is a drop in the Atlantic Ocean.

The inhabitants of Montserrat do not even need to think back to Palmerston to feel aggrieved. Only 15 years ago a task force was dispatched and a Government's life hazarded to safeguard the future of the Falkland Islanders. Now, a different Government looks to the copybook headings, sends a ship but cannot give the guarantees its dependants need. One does not need to be an imperial romantic, simply a believer in plain dealing and the debt of honour, to find the Government's response inadequate.

The inhabitants of Montserrat are British dependants, the moral responsibility of ministers as much as the citizens of Burnley or Belfast. Indeed, our responsibility for their welfare is arguably greater given the unhappy British Nationality Act of 1981 which denied them, and the citizens of Hong Kong among others, the right freely to settle in the country which colonised them. The volcano which devastated the island earlier this year has left only an enclave at all habitable and rendered the island as a whole

unlivable. Even if individuals were inclined to stay in that quarter to the north that is deemed safe, the threat of future eruptions would make such a course foolhardy.

The only guarantee of security that the people of Montserrat can have is an assurance that their needs will be met on a neighbouring island without incurring the resentment of those kind enough to take them. Such an assurance will need to be underwritten by Britain. No such assurance has yet been given.

The Government is offering to evacuate all those who wish to leave. But, without a guarantee of a basic income or grant along the lines of the £30,000 or so per family requested by the Montserrat Chief Minister, many are understandably reluctant to go. What assurance do they have that when they are shipped to neighbouring Antigua or Barbuda they will not be left there without adequate support? These island nations are eager to assist but they do not have the resources to absorb thousands of refugees. Unless Britain is prepared to provide greater financial support to build homes, equip hospitals and help resettlement, then tension and poverty will replace volcanic eruption as the curse of Montserrat's people.

The planned pop concert in the spirit, though not on the scale, of Live Aid is a noble gesture. But Montserrat is not a foreign country fit for food parcels. It is British soil and British ministers should not need pop stars to shame them into doing their duty.

## Appeal for policy rethink on coal

From the Director General of the Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers

Sir, The Energy Minister, John Birt, expressed regret today over the closure of RJB Mining's Asfordby pit (reports, August 19) — and promised that Government would act to support domestic producers. This is encouraging news indeed, and is the first indication of government support for our indigenous coal industry since their election.

Coal, together with nuclear power and gas, should be a cornerstone and equal partner in a policy which will ensure we make the best long-term use of all our energy resources. Our reserves of coal remain considerable compared with the currently abundant but short-term availability of gas. New gas finds will not be in the shallow waters around our coast, and therefore will be more expensive. By maintaining existing markets for coal, we have sufficient reserves to last for generations to come.

The EU forecasts that by the year 2020, the UK will be reliant on foreign suppliers for 48 per cent of its energy. Our gas will be supplied from the less politically stable countries of the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa.

To allow such a development is inconsistent with promoting an energy policy based on diversity, security and sustainability. It is not too late to stop the plug being pulled on Britain's coal industry and to make the changes necessary to ensure we make good use of our rich coal reserves within an integrated energy policy and environmental framework.

The technology exists and is being used in other countries to burn coal cleanly; a similar investment now in the UK will be an investment in the future of our children for whom energy resources will be an increasingly critical issue.

Yours faithfully,  
GERRY A. MOUSLEY,  
Director General,  
Confederation of UK Coal Producers,  
Confederation House,  
Thornes Office Park,  
Denby Dale Road,  
Wakfield, West Yorkshire,  
August 19.

From Mrs Pamela Ross

Sir, There are two factors which do not seem to have been taken into consideration in all the deliberations about the closure of Asfordby mine and the future of coal in Britain.

The first is the limit on the amount of coal which can be imported through British ports, which means that there will always be a minimum requirement for home-produced coal. The other is that it takes a considerable length of time to develop a coalmine — ten years or more. In the long term, when gas has run out, more coal will be needed. If the deep mines have been closed, there will be no experienced workforce or management available to produce it.

This Government needs a long-term energy policy which includes a place for the coal industry. This should be formulated as soon as possible to protect the country's coal reserves for our future needs.

Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA ROSS (Regional Councillor,  
(Energy and Utilities Section), GMB,  
Bank House, Market Place,  
Cawood, Selby, North Yorkshire,  
August 19.

## A fair fare?

From Mr David Norris

Sir, Perhaps one incentive which Mrs C. M. Potter (letter, August 18) should take into account when assessing the value of public transport is safety. Trains are much safer than cars.

Perhaps the media should publish a weekly summary of casualties caused by travelling by rail, air, public road transport and private car, allowing us to appreciate the relative risks.

The premium paid is surely worth the safety of Mrs Potter's daughter and granddaughter.

Yours truly,  
DAVID NORRIS,  
Blackthorn, Buckhurst Lane,  
Wadhurst, East Sussex,  
August 18.

From Dr D. H. Sharp

Sir, Mrs C. M. Potter makes the common but cardinal error of equating the cost of using her car with the minimum marginal cost — that of fuel used.

This marginal cost is about 9p per mile, which would cost for the return journey from Reading to Guildford — say 52 miles — about £4.70, which is indeed less than one third of her rail fare of £13.60.

In contrast, the total, real cost per mile, as assessed by a popular car magazine, ranges from about 33p for a Ford Escort to about 50p for a Saab 900. My district council allows me to claim 43.5p per mile, as a councillor, and this figure is approved by the district auditor. Thus the real cost of her journey would have been about £22.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. SHARP,  
Greenhill House,  
Shoreham Road,  
Oxford, Sevenoaks, Kent,  
August 18.

Business letters, page 27

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Sweating it out as the dew falls and temperatures rise

From Mr Peter J. Camp

Sir, If the Meteorological Office wishes to produce a "comfort index" combining the effects of temperature and humidity (letters, August 16 and 19) it should contact its colleagues at the World Meteorological Organisation or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These two bodies jointly produced a credit-card sized card for distribution to those attending the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

By comparing air temperature with relative humidity the table on the card indicates the "apparent temperature". For example, when the air temperature is 84F and the relative humidity is 40 per cent the apparent temperature decreases to 83F. However, if the air temperature is 84F but the relative humidity is 80 per cent the apparent temperature increases to 94F.

The effects are more spectacular the higher the air temperature. With an air temperature of 94F and relative humidity at 80 per cent the apparent temperature is 129F.

Yours faithfully,

PETER J. CAMP,  
Rosewood House,  
Wanborough Lane,  
Cranleigh, Surrey,  
August 19.

From Professor Emeritus Alan Day

Sir, When I served in the RAF as a meteorological officer in India in the final months of the Raj, we had a very simple rule of thumb to relate weather

conditions with physical discomfort: if the wet bulb temperature rose significantly above 80F, the level of discomfort rose sharply and one's working efficiency fell off correspondingly.

The wet bulb reading is based on a normal thermometer whose bulb is surrounded by a damp wick. In dry desert conditions it can read 30 degrees or more below the dry bulb temperature as a result of evaporation, whereas when the air is saturated with water vapour the two readings coincide.

Here on a hilltop in rural Kent at midday by the sun, today's dry bulb temperature was 88F and the wet bulb 76F. This is quite bad enough, albeit well below the readings achieved, say, in midsummer Washington DC or Calcutta in the monsoon, when readings in the top half of the eighties are not uncommon.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN DAY,  
Chart Place, Chart Sutton, Kent,  
August 19.

From Mr James Denson

Sir, I quote the following from the 1994 edition of *The Guinness Book of Records*:

Humidity and discomfort: Human comfort or discomfort depends not merely on temperature but on the combination of temperature, humidity, radiation and wind speed. The United States Weather Bureau uses a Temperature-Humidity Index, which equals two fifths of the sum of the dry and wet bulb thermometer readings plus 15. A THI of 98.2 has been twice recorded in Death Valley, California — on 17th Jul 1966

(110F and 21 per cent) and on 12 Aug 1970 (117F and 37 per cent).

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES DENSON,  
8 Lyon Avenue,  
New Milton, Hampshire,  
jed@cs.nott.ac.uk

From Mr R. J. Turner

Sir, Professor Maurice Crosland (letter, August 1) wonders why the Meteorological Office does not give quantitative data relating to humidity. I suggest the answer is implicit in the piece by Simon Jenkins on the facing page, headed "A-level students rightly prefer 'soft' subjects to dry and useless sciences".

I am sure the Meteorological Office doesn't bother because it realises that only a tiny minority would have any clue as to what it was talking about.

In this present spell of hot and humid weather I have heard several people express astonishment at the very heavy dew which occurs each morning. When I explain that because the relative humidity is so high the slightest overnight cooling results in the air being cooled below its dew-point temperature and thus condensation occurs, they look at me as if I had asked them in Serbo-Croat for directions to the nearest public convenience.

Yours faithfully,  
R. TURNER,  
92 Brook Lane,  
Warsash, Southampton, Hampshire,  
August 18.

## Solutions to Africa's political and financial problems

From Mr David Lort-Phillips

Sir, Matthew Parris's gloomy view of the prospects for Africa (articles, August 8 and 15) has reopened an important debate (letters, August 16).

It is not just the particular horrors of Rwanda, Zaire and Angola. Of more enduring importance are the unseemly miseries of millions of Africans, many of whose national governments and ruling elites seem to have given up on them. The tragedy is that so many, given a modicum of good government and the right kind of international help, can do so much on their own behalf.

Having worked as a district officer in rural Nigeria in the late Sixties, originally through VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), and again in the late Eighties on a World Bank project, my heart responds to the would-be optimists; but my head recognises that much of what Parris says is true.

What principally depressed me, on my return to Nigeria, was not declining living standards (many were materially far better off) but falling morale and a lack of faith in their own or indeed any system of government.

This contrasted starkly with the dedication and faith in the future shown by many of my young colleagues in the administration in the

1960s. I recall urging them, when my wife and I left Nigeria in 1967, to bring their best talents into local government, thus creating an infrastructure to secure people's basic needs, against the time when national governments failed them, as they have consistently done ever since.

If Matthew Parris's Domesday scenario is not to be realised it is at that level that the international community must apply encouragement and help.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LORT-PHILLIPS,  
Knowles Farm,  
Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire,  
August 17.

From the High Commissioner for Kenya

Sir, Your editorial, "Light in dark places" (August 18), makes a rather tenuous argument that corruption is unavoidable in any but the best-run and well-established democracies. In fact the former socialist (communist) countries had near zero corruption until capitalism and democracy were introduced in the recent past.

Corruption is costly because it leads to the misallocation of scarce resources. However, it is not necessarily

true that corruption and poverty go together. Corruption and poverty do not have a cause-and-effect relationship.

Yours sincerely,  
M. NGALI,  
Kenya High Commission,  
45 Portland Place, W1,  
August 18.

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, In the second of his articles on Africa, Matthew Parris likens the struggles of African countries to escape poverty to those of spiders trying to climb out of a bathtub.

When I spot a spider in my bath — assuming I don't want a bath immediately — I drape a bathmat over the side, reaching down to a level it can get to. When I come back later, it has usually made good its escape. Similarly, if we can simply remove the insurmountable obstacles in the Africans' way — principally the completely unsustainable levels of debt which they face — they will be out of the bath in no time, and we can relax in the tub with a clear conscience.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL LINTON,  
39a Fox Lane,  
Palmer's Green, N13,  
August 16.

## Hindley's remorse

From Mr Julian J. Wrang

Sir, If Myra Hindley is as racked by contrition as the good Lord Longford, yet again, implies (letter, August 20), then should it matter to her one jot whether she is in jail or out of it? Either way, she can never be free.

Stone walls may not, in certain circumstances, a prison make, but neither should release from them bestow a sudden or magical freedom from conscience.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN J. WRANG,  
17 Heol-y-Lwyni,  
Garth, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan,  
August 20.

From Mr Jerome Gardner

Sir, In her analysis of the several issues raised by the "portrait" of Myra Hindley (article, August 18) Isabel Carlisle did not touch on one that seems to me equally relevant: the helpless situation of a long-term prisoner when faced by damaging publicity of this kind. In my view the continued use by the press of a scary police mug shot, taken 32 years ago, is a bad enough abuse of human rights without this absurd attempt to elevate it to the status of a work of art.

Of course the Royal Academy should ban it — for this reason as well as in deference to the expressed wishes of the relations of the Moors victims.

Yours faithfully,  
JEROME GARDNER,  
Mortcombe, Cherry Bridge,  
Barbroke, Linton, Devon,  
August 18.

## St Edmundsbury tower

From Professor James Stevens Curl, FSA

Sir, Marcus Binney's excellent report of July 26 about the new scheme for a crossing-tower for Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, revealed a far nobler design than the stumpy apse for a tower favoured by the Cathedral Council (letter, August 4). The latter is based on a sketch produced simply for purposes of comparing costs.

In the 1960s the late Stephen Dykes Bower, architect of the fine extensions to the cathedral, drew up a soaring, wonderful tower that would have done justice to his own excellent work

## Haeckel's drawings

From Dr Michael K. Richardson

Sir, Professor Terry Hamblin (letter, August 18) is right to remind your readers that Ernst Haeckel's embryo drawings have been criticised before. Indeed, we make this point in our paper *Anatomy and Embryology*, on which Nigel Hawkes reported in your issue of August 11.

The problem remains, however, that many of the people who write the biology textbooks today do not appear to be aware of the controversy. This may explain why Professor Hamblin was taught Haeckel's discredited ideas at school. Modern views of how animals evolve are still heavily influenced by Haeckel's view that embryos are largely untouched by evolution.

Haeckel's legacy is predominantly an unpleasant one, and his racist ideas were taken up by the National Socialists. However, it is only fair to remember that he did a great deal of important work, especially in the field of invertebrate zoology.

Finally, I point out that the photographs of embryos accompanying Nigel Hawkes's article are mostly different species from those in Haeckel's drawings. Unfortunately, the labels which I supplied with the photographs were not printed.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL K. RICHARDSON  
(Lecturer),  
Department of Anatomy and  
Developmental Biology,  
St George's Hospital Medical School,  
Cranmer Terrace, SW17,  
m.richardson@sgms.ac.uk  
August 18.

there, I believe that Hugh Mathew's design would do ample justice to the integrity of the overall design.

Committees cannot design noble buildings. Mathew's tower could do just that, as everyone would agree if the council would only build what Dykes Bower intended, even without the spire.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JAMES STEVENS CURL,  
15 Torgrove, Holywood, Co Down,  
August 15.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Arms for oblivion?

From Mr Wyn K. Ford

Sir, May I offer a few comments on the proposed renaming of a Haywards Heath pub (Diary, August 18)?

It is clear that at one time the names under discussion were alternatives for the same establishment. I have not traced the existence of this pub earlier than 1832, when it was known as The Dolphin. But it was known as The Sergeant's Arms as early as 1845, and this name has continued in current use until the present time, although the building is labelled as the Dolphin Inn on a map dated 1857.

It would be unfortunate if the pub was now to revert to its early name. Locally it is known familiarly as the Sarge, and the change would probably lead to confusion with an identically named leisure centre and restaurant in the town.

Yours faithfully,  
WYN K. FORD  
(Joint author, *The Metropolis of Mid Sussex*, Charles Clarke, 1981),  
40 Lodge Lane,  
Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex,  
August 19.

From Sir Ilay Campbell

Sir, According to Burke's *Landed Gentry* the arms of the Sergeants of Cuckfield Park — an estate some two miles out of Haywards Heath — were "Argent, on a chevron between three dolphins naiant sable, a plate between two fleurs-de-lis of the first".

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

I am etc.  
ILAY CAMPBELL,  
Craske Lodge, Inveraray, Argyll,  
August 19.

## Keeping control

From Mr John Clark Maxwell

Sir, At this time of year I can understand why my local *Yellow Pages* has placed the announcement "School holidays, see the new inside guide" between "Pest and vermin control products" and "Pest and vermin control services".

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CLARK MAXWELL,  
The Mead House,  
Church Road,  
Swallowfield, Berkshire,  
August 16.



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joyful wing cleaving the sky," is usually limited from modern hymn-books. Several additional stanzas have been composed and published for doctrinal reasons, some good and some bad. Bishop Walsham How, himself the author of splendid hymns, very unsuccessfully para-phrased it to express "more definitely Christian faith." These additional stanzas lack the spontaneous devotion of the original hymn and are obviously the work of a later age. A work of high power has surely an inalienable copyright not to be mutilated, paraphrased, or elongated by other hands.

Many famous hymns, like "Nearer, my God, to thee," are associated with un fading memories, personal or historical. In the tragic story of the loss of the *Titanic* on its maiden voyage, subsequently told by survivors, nothing was more moving than the fact, to which many bore witness, that as the great vessel was slowly sinking the ship's orchestra played the familiar tune of this hymn, and as a few passengers joined in singing it. An unusual cry of grief and a sense of personal peril it is not difficult to understand how naturally it must have expressed the feelings of men and women suddenly faced with death in the Atlantic waters.



# Big Brother plan for safer air travel

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

A DRIVE to halve the number of air accidents is to be launched by the International Air Transport Association. Fears about safety are growing as demand for air travel increases and new airlines are encouraged to start up.

Experts are worried that many of the new small airlines — especially from developing countries — will buy old jets sold off by the bigger airlines modernising their fleets, without the technical expertise to maintain them properly.

New IATA is recommending that big international airlines should work closely with their small, less experienced rivals, acting as "buddies" to help them to install, monitor and run safety equipment and procedures. The proposals follow a recent spate of air crashes including that of a Korean Air 747 on the Pacific island of Guam with the loss of 227 lives earlier this month.

Pierre Jeannot, the Director-General of IATA, wants more than 200 members of the

association to introduce the proposals as a matter of urgency. "I am never happy with air safety. It can always be improved," he says.

However, some aviation industry experts are questioning the move, which, they claim, would mean greater bureaucracy and would inevitably lead to smaller airlines, especially in the Third World, demanding more money to provide the additional safety services.

"The ideal mentor is one which has common experiences with the organisation being monitored. Thus the best airline to help a small South American airline with safety concerns should be another small South American airline which is doing better," says *Flight International* magazine.

According to IATA, at the end of last year there were 11,711 Western-built jet aircraft in commercial service. They were operated by 630 airlines, made 18 million take-offs and

flew 30 million hours. Out of all these, there were 19 accidents, 12 involving deaths. The fatal crashes killed 1,189 passengers and 97 crew compared with only 385 and 39 crew in 1995.

IATA is also pressing for: ● More modern "black box" flight recorders and better analysis of their results.

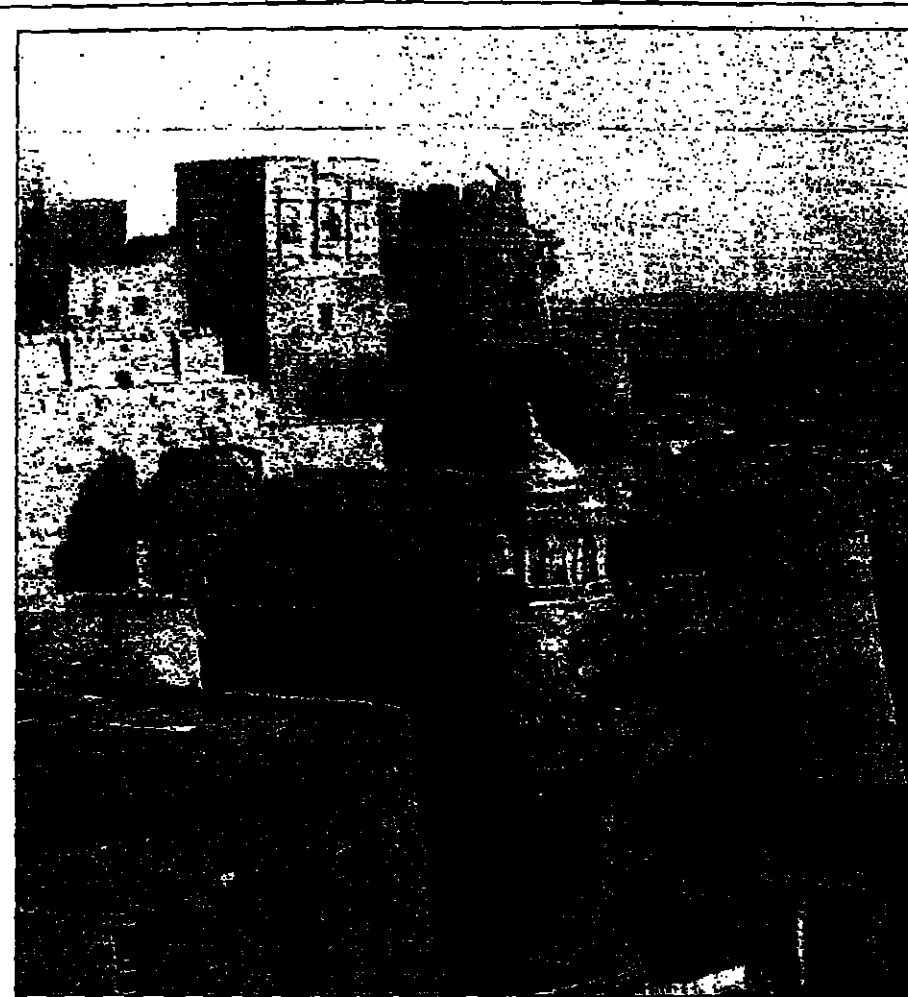
● A faster way of alerting airlines around the world to safety problems.

● Improved procedures to prevent crashes when landing.

● A system of monitoring safety performance which would involve everyone in the airline, from engineering to the flight deck and the boardroom.

● Shared information about problem "human factors", such as the relationships between crew members which can lead to lower safety.

● A readiness among manufacturers, safety authorities and airlines to make amendments if necessary.



Tourism to Rajasthan, India's most popular destination, has been hit by price rises

## Indian summers given overhaul

BY CATHERINE CHETWYND

SWINGING tax rises on luxury hotels combined with a sharp increase in air fares and a doubling of the cost of a visa is threatening the predicted boom in India's tourist trade. In the wake of India's 50th anniversary of independence this month, tourism chiefs had hoped for a big leap in the number of foreign visitors.

But Bombay has already become the world's most expensive city for business travellers, with Delhi second, after tax rises forced up the price of a luxury hotel room by as much as 20 per cent in several states, including the most popular, Rajasthan.

This, combined with a rise in air fares, has resulted in a distinct cooling of interest in India. A doubling in visa prices from £13 for a three-month visa to £26 for a six-month one has also added to the cost.

In an attempt to avoid putting up prices overall, tour operators have renegotiated

hotel rates and reprinted brochures with shorter or cheaper sightseeing trips.

"We renegotiated everything," says Philip Grierson of Cox & Kings. "As a result, we have managed to bring down prices overall by around 12 per cent."

Paul Arizotti, Hayes and Jarvis product manager, feels prices will come down again. "Corporate traffic to India has fallen recently," he says. "So retailers are now keen to negotiate."

Prices in the new brochure are 10 to 15 per cent higher but the programme has been broadened to include unusual destinations such as Sikkim and Gujarat, as well as the classical tours featured in the original brochure.

Sue Biggs, deputy managing director of Koon, says India remains an attractive destination. "And £699 for a seven-night tour, including air fares, accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, is still good value," she adds.

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7 night Cruise	Inc Excursions	Athens	3nts 239	Hotel	Hotel	NEW YORK	£189	BOSTON	£219	SEUL/TOKYO	£469	THAILAND/INDIA	£299	WASHINGTON	£225	DENVER	£285	HARARE/JOHANNESBURG	£329	K. LUMPU/P. SPORE	£370	SEATTLE	£285	CANCUN	£289	DUBAI/BAHRAIN	£249	HONG KONG	£399	CALIFORNIA	£269	CARIBBEAN	£269	EGYPT/ISRAEL	£149	MORE DEST. AVAILABLE	£629	Car hire per day	£30	Campers per day	£70	Hotels per day	£30
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## Protests over new hotel bus service

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ELEVEN hotels near Heathrow airport have rejected pleas to stop charging guests for coach journeys to and from all four flight terminals. The hotels scrapped their individual courtesy bus services nearly two months ago amid protests from business travellers, travel agents and even the airport operator BAA. They were replaced by the Hotel Hoppla Service, which now charges a flat rate for airport coach journeys and links several hotels in one circular service.

The Heathrow Hoteliers Association this week turned a deaf ear to the complaints and insisted that the charges — £2 for a single journey and £3.50 for a return — would remain in force. Heinz Volland, the chairman of HHA, says: "We do not make any profit from the charges. Instead of each hotel having its own small coach, all clogging up the roads and operating at the same time, there is now just one service

provided by Speedlink with timetables structured to ensure that no one has to wait for more than 15 minutes." But the Guild of Business Travel Agents is still fighting the decision which it says is "another exploitation of the frequent business traveller". "The amount may be small in itself but the point is that it's a cost where there was none before," says Tony Hughes, the chairman of the GBTA. BAA says it has "expressed

concern" at the charges and asked the association to reconsider.

Paula Batten, the general manager of hotels for the Carison Wagonlit Travel chain of agencies, said that the last thing a business traveller needed was to search for a change on arrival at Heathrow. "Travellers are being caught out, as some queues for the bus without having pre-purchased their tickets and others save insufficient change for their return journey and departure tax."



## Waving the flag and proud of it

Do we want more tourists to come to Britain? In the past few stifling weeks when backpackers have made Tube travel in London a hazard, when elderly coaches from Eastern Europe have spewed out black exhaust and when hordes of Japanese and Americans have swamped heritage sites throughout the country, it would be easy to say "No".

But, of course, we do need these guests to balance the economic losses caused by the millions of Britons now on holiday abroad. Given that we need to attract more visitors it was necessary that some professional research be carried out to discover what these foreigners expect to find and what attracts them.

The British Tourist Authority (BTA) set out to do just that 18 months ago. Its research has resulted in a small publication called *Living Britain* — a guide to understanding the characteristics of the geographic brands of Britain, London, Scotland, England and Wales.

It contained some pretty odd conclusions — that travel is driven by "hedonism, adventure and Zen" — as well as some of numbing, self-evident clichés. The report was sent to designers with instructions to use it as a blueprint to create a logo which could be used on BTA notepaper and advertising throughout the world.

At the moment a very simple bold title, "Britain", surmounted by a wavy Union Flag is used. This is not an image most Britons ever see, appearing only in travel offices abroad. But when a middle-ranking BTA official made an unguarded remark which was interpreted — wrongly — as

meaning that the flag was to be dropped altogether by the BTA, the reaction was immediate and extreme.

David Quarmby, the chairman of the BTA, was forced to give a formal written assurance that the flag would still be in the logo but of a different design and more stylised to reflect the modern image of Britain.

His protestations were either ignored by those who had set the hare running, or simply not believed. Callers jammed the switchboard of the BTA headquarters to protest. "I've never taken so many calls from people who began by saying: 'I fought in the war you know...'" said one bemused employee. It was akin to the reaction of shareholders to the new designs on the BA's aircraft.

We will have to wait until September 22 to see what the new design really does contain. But I am assured by everyone who has seen it that the flag is there.

The booklet is odd, however. "Geographical brands are only part of the story," it muses. "Activities and events are also essential parts of any visit, satisfying one or other or a multiple of hedonism, adventure and Zen."

Britain is "an island of contrasts", Scotland "a land of fire and stone", Wales "a land of nature and legend" and England "a tea in a quaint country village, cricket on a village green...". etc. Glasthy.

"We must remember that Britain is not just Beefeaters and the Tower of London and it is important that we reflect all that is contemporary, stylish and inventive too," Mr Quarmby says. Who can argue with that?



Kenyan riot police apprehend a looter in Nairobi, which has been affected by violent protests

## Foreign Office issues warning to British travellers about 'indiscriminate' violence in Mombasa

# Tourists cancel trips in fear of Kenya unrest

By TONY DAWE

**WORRIED** British tourists are cancelling holidays to Kenya and switching to other countries after tough warnings from the Foreign Office this week about unrest in the African state.

Thomson, the leading tour operator, said yesterday that 14 holidaymakers who had planned to fly from Manchester to Mombasa on Tuesday night had cancelled their trips while Kuoni said it is offering clients flying to Kenya in the next week the opportunity to cancel at no cost.

Somak Holidays said that it had delayed a return flight to Manchester from Mombasa yesterday so that all passengers could travel to the airport in daylight.

The Foreign Office has warned against travelling after dark even though the violence, which has claimed at least 33 lives in the Mombasa area in the past week, has not yet been directed at tourists. Officials say that violence "could become indiscriminate at very short notice" and advise travellers to be "particularly vigilant and keep in close touch with their tour operators, hotels and local authorities".

A series of attacks last month and newspaper and television pictures of a bishop



injured when government troops stormed a church where people had taken refuge failed to deter holidaymakers. However, the violence in the Mombasa area, where thousands head for beach holidays, has caused greater concern.

This week's warning advises that muggings and armed attacks can occur anywhere and at any time, particularly in Nairobi and Mombasa, and adds that armed car hijackings are prevalent in the two cities.

The Foreign Office is advising tourists to avoid some districts altogether, including the northeastern province, the

Tana River district and the Marsabit national reserve and Isiolo region in the north of the country. Those heading for the Samburu and Shaba game reserves or using the road between the coastal resorts of Malindi and Lamu, in the north, are advised to travel with armed guards.

The most popular regions for safaris, including the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tsavo national parks in the south of the country, have not been affected by the violence, which appears to have been triggered by the impending general election.

A Thomson spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are notifying holidaymakers who are about to travel of the latest situation, giving them a copy of the Foreign Office advice and allowing them to make an informed decision about whether to continue with their plans. Those who cancel are being offered their money back, but the majority are going ahead with their holidays."

At Kuoni, a spokeswoman said: "We are offering clients travelling this week and next the opportunity to cancel at no cost or change to a different holiday if they wish. Those already in Mombasa have been updated with the latest

information but no one has asked to move and the situation seems to be getting quieter."

Ash Sofat, the managing director of Somak Holidays, which flies 32,000 British tourists to Kenya every year, said: "We are exercising caution and following Foreign Office advice by arranging transfers to and from the airport in daylight and warning travellers about wandering around after dark or wearing excessive jewellery."

"As a precautionary measure, we have stopped operating coach tours in the Mombasa area but the safaris we organise have not been affected. We have had a few people travelling in the next week or so wanting to cancel or switch destinations and have been able to offer beach holidays in Zanzibar and the Seychelles and safaris in Tanzania as alternatives."

British Airways Holidays said it was in constant contact with the Foreign Office but is

continuing to operate tours and excursions as usual because they do not go near the affected areas.

The violence is certain to damage Kenya's tourist industry, which has been attracting an increasing number of visitors. To avoid overcrowding in the most popular beach and safari areas, tourism officials have been planning to make remote game reserves and beaches more accessible but some are in areas that tourists are now advised to avoid.

## Policing Internet information

The quality and accuracy of financial disclosures are open to question, say James Gulliford and Roger Hussey

**T**he emergence of the World Wide Web as a medium for business communication raises issues concerning the regulation of corporate financial reporting. Companies such as Asda, BP and BT are making full disclosures on the Web, mirroring their published annual report and accounts.

Some companies also disclose quarterly (unaudited statements) and others, such as BOC, have published unaudited preliminary statements. Others are providing financial highlights, summary statements and other excerpts and reports. The quality and the accuracy of disclosures are open to question.

Web sites are frequently laid out in a style similar to the published financial statements, with some companies simply scanning in from the hard copy. Other companies may copy to rekey the data to create the Internet version, which has the potential for introducing errors. In recognition of this risk, BP, among others, has appended a note alerting readers that there might be errors and omissions. The possibility of innocent error is, however, only a minor problem. Because of the lack of regulation, companies can dis-

seminate information that falls short of giving a "true and fair view". Particular paragraphs from the full report and accounts can be omitted, giving the reader an unbalanced perception of the company's state of affairs. Equally dangerous, additional paragraphs, not in the published statements and, hence, not audited, can be included. To our knowledge, few auditors are consulted on the financial disclosures a company makes on the Web.

Another problem with potentially dramatic implications is the ability to easily imitate corporate Web sites. In cloning a corporate Web site, a rogue could amend the accounts with great ease. A similar hazard is the risk of hackers gaining access to a company's own server and modifying the contents of the Web site.

Although it is impossible to regulate all corporate financial disclosures on the Web, some measures should be taken to protect the interests of investors and other users and the reputation and well-being of the company itself. This is not likely to be easy and Internet regulation, in general, has proved to be a contentious and thorny issue. Governments have sought to control what information is put on and



Roger Hussey calls for measures to protect investors

downloaded from the Internet, within their jurisdiction. However, the Internet spans global boundaries and no one organisation has responsibility.

As corporate Internet usage grows, regulators and other parties must work together to form a strategy to tackle the financial reporting challenges.

Organisations such as the Accounting Standards Board, the Department of Trade and Industry and the London Stock Exchange need to consider how

to ensure investor protection. It may be that, as we strive towards international harmonisation, there is a significant role for the International Accounting Standards Committee. Our suggestions, however, are in the UK context.

One solution could be a compulsory filing system for financial statements on a government-controlled Web server. This could be brought into line with the procedures, regulations and penalties now used

by Companies House. This one controlled server could be the single source of reliable UK company financial reporting information, and, as such, the material contained on it would be wholly audited and intact.

Another answer would be for a Web audit to be conducted, either by a watchdog agency or, more probably, by the company's appointed auditor on a spot check basis. This approach would provide some comfort to companies and investors that an effort was being made to ensure the security and integrity of the data being broadcast.

The third possibility is that no action will be attempted until the position becomes so untenable that intervention must be implemented. This would involve attempting to change practices that have become firmly established and reacting to scandals that need never have occurred.

The Web offers considerable opportunities in the rapid, convenient and widespread dissemination of financial information by companies. A number of organisations are aware of the issues and are monitoring developments. But now is the time for someone to grasp the initiative to exploit the potential of the Internet for corporate communications and to ensure the integrity and security of the data broadcast.

James Gulliford is a research associate and Roger Hussey Professor of Financial Communications at Bristol Business School

## Man who walked and talked the job

**T**HERE is less room in the business arena these days for the evangelist. And by evangelist I mean someone who believes, with a passion and understanding, in trying to bring about change that will improve the way business is done. John Garnett, who died last week, was such a person. He was Director of the Industrial Society from 1962 until 1986 and was responsible for creating an environment in which vigorous ideas to bring about change that could benefit everyone in the industrial and business world could flourish.

In many ways his work predated and made possible the philosophy behind the sort of cultural change programmes that are now increasingly commonplace. I met Garnett when I edited *Accountancy Age*, *Accountancy* and the society sponsored awards for simplified financial reporting, an initiative that grew out of the need for simpler and comprehensible reporting of financial results to employees. The awards programme ran for some 14 years. For Garnett, it was a small part of his work. But the basics were there. What he believed in was the importance of leadership and communication within business units. Only when that was working could the whole business realise its full potential and that of all the individuals that made it up.

In his early days at ICI he had been sent to the first of the Duke of Edinburgh's study conferences, the great postwar gatherings that brought together the brightest and best young managers across industry and commerce to discuss common problems and see how other businesses worked. It was the start of a belief that to do your own job well you needed to understand its context and how the whole of the business worked. He used to talk of his early days at ICI in Glasgow. "I can see now the opening of Imperial Chemical House, Sydney, Australia," he used to recall. "In our own office we had a picture of this great big building five blocks from the Sydney Opera House and we really did know, in Bothwell Street, Glasgow, what ICI was doing in Australia, but what we could never discover was what ICI was doing in Bothwell Street, Glasgow..."

He was a great advocate of "walking the job" to find out. And one of the most useful of the initiatives that the Industrial Society worked tirelessly was to advocate and introduce was the idea of team briefing. But

his great value was that he believed in what he was doing and was an evangelist in getting across his ideas. His talks, speeches and presentations were all pretty much the same material. But you left them understanding how important the simple process of leadership and communication was and understanding the energy and dynamism needed to bring them about.

In 1975, referring to one of his leadership initiatives, he said: "Some of the older generation will look on this approach to leadership as a blinding glimpse of common sense, but much goes wrong today because a new generation has never been taught these simple points of leadership action."

It was a question of taking time to talk of how business worked, to enable ideas to be understood, and for people's own potential to be allowed to grow. These days it is harder to take time. There is no less time at hand. It is simply that such concepts are not given the priority and time that they deserve. Businesses are perceived to be tightly competitive. The advantages are at the extreme margins. Refining technical skills gives one the chance to push a margin slightly wider and so open up a tiny competitive advantage. It is in this that business devotes its time.

It is the same with the motivation behind efforts to expand communication. In the days of the simplified reporting awards, the idea of explaining complex accounting and financial reporting issues to the workforce was seen as something that would create wide and lasting benefits. The motivation behind today's desire to bring summarised financial reporting to the masses is simply that it would bring down the postage bill.

That is also why current initiatives, such as the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance, are so dispiriting. The impression given is not one of creating change that will enhance business but instead of an exercise aimed at getting away with the minimum possible to assuage the critics. Garnett recognised one simple concept early in his career. He defined it as the need that people have "to give". And that was the basis for his work. "How to make people give" should be the basis for any business strategy. But people need time to achieve that. And managers no longer believe in giving anyone such time.



ROBERT BRUCE

## ICA gets het up over etiquette

**NEVER** let it be said that the English ICA lacks a strong hold on its priorities. Last week, as the rest of the accountancy world talked of Hampel, the regulation and derivatives and mergers, I sent more than 100 staff a stiff note on... etiquette. A message from the secretary of Andrew Colquhoun, the chief executive, said: "If members of the staff are unsure how to address and start and finish letters to people

with titles other than Mr, Mrs or Ms, please consult the Executive Office or consult *Debrett's Correct Form*." This rings alarm bells. The vice-president is, of course, Sheila Masters — a Dame. The staff read on: "There have been two recent occasions when letters to Dame Sheila Masters have started 'Dear Dame Masters' instead of 'Dear Dame Sheila'." It said: "One we managed to intercept, but the other

reached Dame Sheila, which provoked a sharp rebuke to Andrew Colquhoun." The poor fellow probably deserves a knighthood.

## Football coup

**DELOITTE & TOUCHE** managed a marketing coup with its sixth annual review of football finance. Press coverage of what used to be an arcane accounting topic has been extraordinary

and the partner involved, Gerry Boon, is over the moon in spite of being an Oldham Athletic supporter. And the football audit market is also hotting up. Deloitte claims some big names in its locker room. It audits Spurs, AC Milan, Barcelona and, as you might expect, Oldham Athletic, among others. But its survey fails to reveal the accounting firm with the blue-chip clients — step forward

Grant Thornton, auditor to Manchester United and Glasgow Rangers.

**TOMORROW** The Times will publish *The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' June 1997 examination results*. These will be followed on Saturday by *The Institute of Chartered Accountants' July 1997 Final results*. Copies of both days' Times will be available at London mainline stations from 10pm the evening before publication.

ROBERT BRUCE



